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ISRAEL: AS I SEE IT

Israel wants peace, but at what price?

By SAMSON KRUPNICK

The accepted aphorism, "A picture is worth a thousand words" may well be applied to the recently held Peace Conference. Millions



of viewers around the globe watched and heard the proceedings, the many press conferences in which Arabs and Israel competed for attention and sympathy for

their presentations, and the reactions of hosts U.S. President George Bush and Soviet Union President Gorbachev.

Running the entire show, from its earlier preparation until its meeting on Oct. 30, precisely on schedule, was U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Around the huge table sat delegations from Jordan, Palestinians, Syria, Lebanon and Israel — "Face to face" theoretically. Actually the seats were so angled as to face the podium at the head table at which were seated the delegation of the Soviet Union and the U.S. The entire arrangement represented a large cross. We noted two cartoons,

which like pictures also were worth a thousand words. One was "Lurie's World" in which he had Prime Minister Shamir (labeled Israel) fastened to the cross surrounded by hostile Arab delegations. Another was a cartoon by Benie Burg appearing in the news paper, "Hatzofe," depicting Shamir, dressed in the garb of a matador holding a sheet against an attack by three charging wild bulls.

These cartoons tell the story succinctly. Israel was on the receiving end of a giant bashing. Everyone demanded Israel's withdrawal from "all occupied territory

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WAS MAXWELL'S DEATH ACCIDENTAL? — While speculations were rife that Robert Maxwell did not die by accident, nevertheless he was buried on Mt. of Olives. Wife, Elizabeth, and their three sons were in attendance.

NOT TO BE DETERRED — The photographer does tricks with this picture of the Prime Minister striding energetically as he returned to Israel from Madrid confident that he had presented the Israel case effectively while the world watched on.

POSTMARK ISRAEL

Armageddon faces Israel

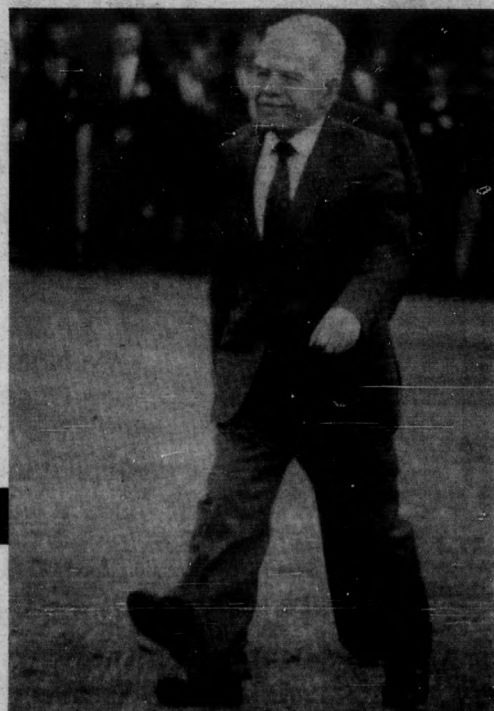
The beginnings at Madrid, fragile though they may be, lead to new and thoughtful contemplation of future possibilities. Obviously, the lead is being dictated by Washington, and the Bush/Baker team give all evidence of having a specific goal in mind, though they carefully avoid defining their aspirations for a final settlement in the Middle East. Nevertheless, one or two things have been made clear. Washington is opposed to continued Israeli hegemony over the occupied territories, and has also come out strongly against settlements in this area, since these strengthen Israel's hold.

Well, if Israel is not to control the disputed territory, who will? Here we are faced with the almost certain possibility of a witches' brew in which Arab rivalries will confront each other in what could well become a new and major threat to peace in the Middle East.

Who assumes control of the new "liberated" territory? And don't talk about democratic elections. The very idea is foreign to the Middle East except in Israel. Power goes to the one who seizes it at the muzzle of a gun.

Will it be Yasir Arafat, founder and father of international terrorism as a weapon of political policy? He will be given full support by Iraq's Saddam Hussein, if only out of gratitude for the PLO support during the Gulf War. This will offer Saddam a new launching pad for his policy of expansionism, this time right on the borders of an Israel

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Indiana Klan gains limelight in disputes

By ED STATTMANN

Indiana residents have twice rebuffed Ku Klux Klan members in the past several days — at Vincennes and Charlestown.

At the same time, a young Vincennes Klan leader was reveling in the publicity.

At Charlestown Saturday, four members of a Klan chapter were jeered by a local crowd and challenged to debate by ministers.

Joe Gosciniak, who identified himself as imperial wizard of the Northwest Territory Knights of the Ku Klux Klan headed the 90-minute rally near the town square. He talked about problems facing American farmers.

His appearance was called an embarrassment to the town by Clara Jones, a lifelong Charlestown resident.

A Sellersburg technical college student, David Gettings, told Gosciniak to "take your hate somewhere else."

Klansman Chris Conner of Bowling Green, Ky., joined Gosciniak at the microphone, but later said it was impossible to talk to people with closed minds.

Several black ministers from Charlestown and Jeffersonville joined the anti-Klan

crowd and the Klansmen soon were faced by a spontaneous gathering of people of both races joining hands and singing, "We Shall Overcome."

In Vincennes, Klan leader Mark Peach, 23, applied to join in the Vincennes University homecoming parade set for Saturday, Nov. 23. VU combines its parade with the city's Christmas parade. The university announced Friday it will withdraw from the parade rather than serve as a showcase for the Klan.

The university rejected the Klan's application, which was submitted under the name of the "House of the Good Shepherd," and because the university has no wish to be identified with the racist group.

Peach, a factory worker, insisted his Klan group goes by the name "House of the Good Shepherd Northwest Territory Knights of the Ku Klux Klan." Peach said he is grand dragon of the group for Indiana.

Indiana Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Michael Lee Gradison of Indianapolis said Peach had complained to him about the university's rejection of the KKK parade application.

VU is a junior college with more than 7,200 students. About 5 percent of those students are minority students, said Phyllis Alder, VU's director of public relations.

"Most of our minority students come from more urban areas," she said.

Alder said it is unusual for a two-year school to have a parade and the major events that VU has.

"I guess they're (KKK) trying to get in on the publicity," she said.

Peach, who said there were 43 members of his Rugged Cross Klavern in Vincennes. His parents delivered a message to the Vincennes Sun-Commercial newspaper saying they wanted it known they had nothing to do with his Klan activities.

VU minority affairs coordinator Kimberly Ewing said the Klan's presence angered black students and embarrassed white students. Ewing said she was offended as a Christian that the KKK claims it is acting in the name of Christ.

"We're not against black people — just niggers," Peach said, insisting "niggers come in all colors. They're the ones

who rape and commit crimes."

Peach said Sunday night that the KKK has become more active because "I just took control of the state (Klan)." "I just don't lay silent like everyone else did." He said he became Indiana's top Klan leader in August.

He said the city told him Sunday that the application time for parade permits was closed, unless he was parading along with Vincennes University. Peach said Gradison told him he might have a good case against the city and the school because the parade by a private organization of merchants would be using the public streets. He said Gradison told him legal research was necessary before deciding whether to sue.

As the P-O went to press, Gradison said the ICLU's screening committee would meet Tuesday to review Peach's complaints. He said Peach had offered to send evidence that government agencies wrongfully denied the Klan its rights.

Peach declined to state numbers, but said his group is growing.

"I'd like to thank VU and

Vincennes. They just brought me the publicity we needed," Peach said.

He said he joined the Klan because when he was in high school he was suspended from classes and a Klan member was the only one to step in to get his suspension lifted.

"We're a very nonviolent group. We're not like what you print about us," Peach said. He said Jews control the major news media, which distort the truth about the Klan, the Jews and the economy — and which encourage race mixing among everybody except Jews, while "they don't race mix and they don't mix their religion."

He said the Holocaust was a lie — that Jews in Nazi concentration camps died mainly from disease. Jews control the writing of histories that distort what happened, he said.

He did not comment on the irony of depending on Gradison, a Jew, for legal aid.



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TOWN CRIER

By G.M. COHEN

The Ida and Abe Miller Lecture series will be inaugurated at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4 at the Krannert Auditorium at Purdue. The lecture series was made possible by a grant by Ida Miller in memory of Abe, a Purdue alumnus.

Abe is well remembered by the Jewish community. He was a roly-poly fixture in the early days at his restaurants, first with his mother, who is fondly remembered, above the second floor of South Illinois St. and then in two locations on Market St., just east of the State House. Abe was a raconteur and held sway at a special table on Market St., where the balabatim of the community congregated for lunch.

His story as a restaurateur begins with his problem of finding a job in engineering as a Jew when there were limitations because of his religion. He was active in Zionist circles and of course at Beth-El Zedek Congregation.

There is an interesting sidelight. When Ben Prince and ourself made our first trip to Israel in 1952, Abe wrapped two large salamis in foil for us to give to his mishpacha in Israel. On our return, he confronted us with a letter from his family in Israel thanking him for a salami. At that time, everything in Israel was rationed, there was no decent meat to be had and the bread was like straw. Abe forgave us for yielding to temptation.

The first of the Miller lecture series will feature Prof. Cyrus Herzl Gordon, who will speak on the subject, "Jewish Studies, The Bible, and the Ancient Middle East." Prof. Gordon is director of the Center for Ebla Research and Prof. Emeritus of Bible World Studies at New York University.

Incidentally Abe's degree in engineering finally served him in good stead when he bought a large engineering company, which he operated until his death.

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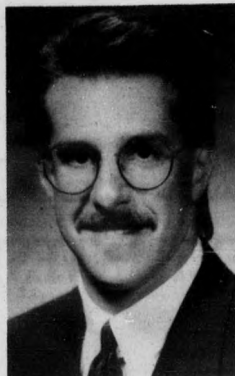
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Henry A. Efromymson

Henry A. Efromymson has joined the law firm of Ice miller Donadio & Ryan.

Land for peace seen as unpopular option

The P-O asked several people in the community (1) if they expect Israel, ultimately, to trade land for peace and (2) Should she do so?

The questions probably were too complicated for a "quickie" poll, but here are a few of the responses:

Larry Schuchman — "No" to the first question. "Possibly so," to the second.

Anita Arkush — No and No.

Esther Lask — "I hope not. They shouldn't."

Ivan Ekhaus — "Maybe. Under certain circumstances. Those are very complicated questions."

Sheldon Hirst — "I would say, no I don't. I think there are certain pieces of land they could trade, but there are certain pieces that I don't think they should."

50 participate at BEZ in its Hebrew Marathon

The "Hebrew Marathon" on Sunday, Nov. 3 at Beth-El introduced nearly 50 potential "Hebrew scholars" to a skill they long wanted to learn. The day-long session was under the direction of Rabbi and Mrs. Noah Golinkin who developed the special training course and have taught it nation-wide.

During the intense session, beginners were introduced to the Hebrew letters and familiar words using a "look," "say," "read," and sometimes "sing" approach. For the majority this was an initial introduction to learning to read Hebrew. The

goal was to recognize and read familiar words and phrases by the end of the eight-hour session. From all indications this was achieved.

Beth-El is now offering a continuation of this class to be held in six weekly sessions. Students will be able to participate in services and reading prayers in Hebrew.

A second goal will enable those interested to become candidates for the adult bar and bat mitzvah program.

Further information may be secured from the synagogue office at 253-3441.

Hudnut to be guest at Academy grandparents day

Mayor William Hudnut will be a special guest at the Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis, 6602 Hoover Road, for its tenth Grandparents and Special Friends Day Friday, Nov. 22.

Grandparents and other special friends or relatives have been invited to enjoy a morning reception, classroom activities, a Thanksgiving program, and a full-course turkey luncheon prepared

and served by parent volunteers. Activities for the day will begin at 9 a.m. and end around 1 p.m. The Hebrew Academy Boutique will be open for holiday shopping from 9 to 1:30.

Grandparents Day is planned and sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Auxiliary. Parents, teachers and students have promised an exciting, enjoyable, festive day.

Comic rabbi to perform

Nationally-known comedian Rabbi Bob Alper will perform under the auspices of the Temple Sisterhood Saturday night at IHC.

The program opens at 7:30 p.m. with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres, followed by

dinner with the entertainment scheduled for 9:30 p.m. The dinner is by Ritz Charles.

Cost is \$45 per person. The affair is the Sisterhood's major fundraiser.

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I HEARD IT ON TUESDAY

80-year survival epic celebrated

By GISELA WEISZ

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LA CHAIM!: Hermann Levi was 80 years old. His daughter and son-in-law,



Ruth and Leon Nitsun surprised him with a beautiful dinner. Saturday night, Oct. 19, after the sabbath, 65 people gathered in the Nitsuns' home. Ruth read aloud a poem she had written about her father's life. She put into rhyme the family's travails through the years from Germany to Palestine, South Africa and finally to the United States.

Mr. Levi's family resided in Alsfeld, Hesse — which is part of Germany today — since the year 1498. Hesse was the homeland of many of the mercenaries who fought for Britain in the American Revolution; as a result the name "Hessians" was incorrectly applied to all of the German mercenaries.

The celebrant responded to his daughter's tribute, starting with the blessing, "Shecheche Yonu", "Blessed be he, who kept me in life. . ." He also thanked with Hebrew words from the 'Pirkey Avot' (Sayings of the Fathers). He spoke to those assembled and told them "I have 'Boruch Hashem,' been blessed for many years with good health and happiness with my dear wife, Chassidah, and enjoyed much naches from my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

He also thanked those who came to celebrate with him on this birthday. Among the

guests were his cousins from Detroit: Hugo, Miriam, Benno and Ruth; his grandson from Chicago, Martin Nitsun; Sylvia and Mike Blain, Etana and Alan Friedman, Dorothy and Sheldon Friedman, Anna Ruth and Mark Hasten, Chaim Levy, Monica and Stephen Rosenfeld, Barbara and Raymond Stern, Anita and Marshall Yovits and others. During the same week the Levis celebrated once again, this time in Kansas City, where another daughter, Mickey, resides with her husband, Saul Batnitzky and their children. Congratulations!

STRICTLY SINGLES: The Eighth Annual Nationwide Jewish Singles Supercruise is coming up! On Feb. 9-16 the Royal Caribbean's good ship "Song of America" will entertain Jewish single travelers. Pick up a brochure at the Indianapolis Jewish Community Center, or write to Lauri Flink, Singles Coordinator, St. Louis

Jewish Community Centers Assn., #2 Millstone Campus Dr., St. Louis, MO 63146.

BIRTHDAY IN THE SOUTH: Marianne Glick will spend her birthday with her parents, Marilyn and Gene Glick and sister, Alice Meshbane in Boca Raton, Fla.

SURPRISE: On his big birthday, Greg Redish, son of Lee and Charlie Redish, went to work as usual in the hospital in Dallas. Friends lured him to a bogus appointment so he would not get home before 7:30 p.m., so the house could be decorated and guests assembled for his arrival. Greg's first surprise was his fancily appointed home — his wife, Maureen's work — which did not resemble the home he left in the morning. Shortly after, his hiding friends came out from behind a door — that was the second big surprise.

Finally, from behind another door, came forth his parents, Lea and Charlie Redish, and relatives Louise and Bob Epstein and Esther and Jerry Epstein, who had flown in from Indianapolis during the day. As if it all were not enough — the Redishes produced Greg's grammar school friend, an acquaintance harking back to his childhood in Indianapolis — David Perkins, who unbeknownst to Greg, had recently moved to Dallas. Perkins came forth as the last surprise of this special and happy birthday party.

FUN: Pat and Irving Glazer's grandchildren, Lindsay, Abbey and Ellie, visited here with their father, Jay Glazer from Peoria, Ill. In a short time they visited The Children's Museum, the Corner Prairie settlement and Walt Disney's Ice Show.

CELEBRATION: Rhonda and Elliott Levin were the host and hostess at their cousin Marion Garmel's birthday, which was celebrated with a

surprise brunch for 30 people on Oct. 12 in the Raddison Hotel.

Present were the hosts' children, Amanda and Jeremy Levin, Ingrid and David Bellman, Maria and Leon Bourke, Mae and Harold Cohen, Susan and Howard Edenberg, Marion's brother and sister-in-law from McLean Va., Evelyn and Eugene Fox; Dale Friend, Rockville, Md.; Paul Goldstein, Rita and Walter Kohn, Lorie and Jim McKown, Susie and John Pickets, Arlington, Texas; Doty and R.K.Shull, Lil and Seymour Shenkman, Susan and Sam Simon, McLean, Va.; Lea and Harry Traugott and others.

I COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT. . . Reservations are already for the Nov. 29 Indianapolis Jewish Singles Party at the Broadmoor Country Club, but it is not too late! If you are between 21 and 39 and want to meet a few hundred of your contemporaries, contact Shelley Frisch, 1130 Alderly Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260.



Rachel Fineberg & Allen Oser

Drs. Fineberg, Oser married

Rabbi Sam Schwartz — the bride's grandfather — along with Cantor Ray Edgar officiated at the wedding of Rachel J. Fineberg. She married Allen B. Oser, St. Louis, Mo., son of Mr. and Mrs. David Oser,

Massepequa Park, N.Y., on Oct. 26 at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck.

The bride's parents are Drs. Naomi and Edwin Fineberg of Indianapolis. She is the granddaughter of Rabbi and Mrs. Schwartz of Indianapolis and Mrs. Sylvia Fineberg, Bridgeport, Conn. The groom is the grandson of Mrs. Paula Rappaport, Binghamton, N.Y.

Maid of honor at the ceremony was Lynn Chickering, Boston. Bridesmaids were Dr. Harriet Schor, Youngstown, Ohio, Beth Teper, Huntington, Conn. and Miriam Barrierson, Long Beach, N.Y.

Continued on page 7



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FLASH! Chuckles. I know it sounds silly now but wasn't this country founded to pro-



test high taxes?... AND... I have the feeling that Secretary Baker can help the United States by trying to make a peace pact between the Democrats and Republicans... AND... A politician who tries to please everybody often looks like a small puppy trying to please four little kids at the same time... AND... Remember, please, politicians are as good as you are, for the way you vote creates politi-

cians... AND... Finally, they invented a computer as smart as a person — it blames all mistakes on another computer... AND... When the fellow said he sings to kill time, his friend commented, "You have a good weapon to do it."... AND... A big mystery to a wife is how a husband who bowls until 2 a.m. without making a strike, can manage to knock over all the milk bottles in the hallway.

FLASH! Two bowling records were broken last Sunday at Woodland Bowl, when the popular Bob Baernkopf threw eleven (11) straight strikes, and on the last ball, had a good shot, and although the 3 pin wobbled but didn't fall, his 297 was the highest single game score ever bowled in the B'nai B'rith Bowling League. Bob also broke another record, when he finished with a fabulous 3-game score of 697. Great bowling by a swell guy, Bob Baernkopf. (Last week I columned about our Harry Bunn bowling a perfect 300 score at the Beth-El Zedeck Men's Club League at the 421 Bowl.)

FLASH! Only in Indy has the weather been fantastic. Where else can you get Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, all in one day? (Thanks to George Bremen for this gem. "It was so cold in Chicago, that the politicians were walking with their hands in their own pockets).

FLASH! Memories for Carroll Kahn, who just returned from his 390th Bomb Group reunion in Tucson, AZ. Carroll was stationed in England during WW II, and was a copilot on B17's. Interestingly, Carroll saw his pilot, after an interval of 46 years.

FLASH! Daffynitions. (Tension)-What the sergeant shouts to the troops. (Rescind)-The first thing Adam and Eve did, after they were expelled from Paradise. (Grapefruit)-The most frequently used eye wash. (Dictionary)-It always has the first and last word. (Anonymous)-The most famous of all writers. (Believing)-What good guests will do before it's too late.

FLASH! Mazel Tov to Abe Zukerman who celebrated his 80th birthday last Sunday with a lovely open-house at Marten Manor Clubhouse. Hosting this great bash were wife Natalie and children, Ed/Elaine; Irene/Johnny; and Howard/Elaine. A great party for a great guy. May you and yours celebrate many more happy birthdays, Abe.

FLASH! Congrats to Rose Stein who celebrated her special birthday at a lovely Sunday brunch at Jonathon's, hosted by her children. Among the many guests of friends and family were her Shortridge High School sorority girls. Enjoy many more wonderful birthdays, Rose.

FLASH! A tee hee. The senior citizen went to the doctor about his leg hurting. The doctor advised it was nothing but old age. The patient said

that wasn't true, because his other leg was just as old and didn't hurt at all.

FLASH! Mazel Tov to Bob/Lil Trattner who will re-affirm their marriage vows on their 50th anniversary. A celebration is being planned for Thanksgiving night at Lion-shead Clubhouse. What a wonderful happening.

FLASH! Norm's philosophy of the week. It's not what you're eating — it's what's eating you.

FLASH! Cute newspaper misprints. "The first chief was inclined to believe that a crossed wife (wire) might be the cause of the fire." "Mr. and Mrs. Hill announced the engagement of their daughter. No mate (date) has been set for the wedding." "The president, who has been sick for several days, is now in bed with a coed (cold)." Laundromat ad: "Ladies, if you drive by our new launderette and drop off your clothes, you will receive swift attention."

FLASH! The NFL (not for ladies) Men's Club's next meeting, Wednesday, Nov. 27, will be extra special — Thanksgiving affair. Besides a delightful Thanksgiving luncheon, with all the trimmings, there will be entertainment by talented violinist Emil Leyvand, and his ensemble. Ladies are invited for this affair. But please, you must call in for a reservation. — Center 251-9467. (Last week, at a special event, only 50 reservations were made and 100 people attended. There was not enough food prepared). So, please, make your reservations.

FLASH! I love this. Husband (after the theater): "What did I do wrong?" Wife: "The idea of you yelling "author-author" at a Shakespearean drama!"

FLASH! It's not too early to order your delicious Hamantashen, to be baked by the B'nai B'rith Women at the Park Regency kitchen. The Hamantashen are parve, in several flavors. Contact Sheila Greenwald, 872-0383 and place your order.

FLASH! Grins. The bank president said, "Our bank is going through a reorganization," when he found out they had more vice-presidents than depositors.... OR... When the lady heard that 5000 elephants go each year to make piano keys, she said, "Really? Isn't it remarkable what those beasts can be trained to do?"

FLASH! Getting a year younger in November are






Continued on next page



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Only one Jewish student

Holocaust play at nearby high school

By MARY BROCKETT

Why would a small rural high school, like Hamilton Heights, with a Jewish population of one, decide to do a play about the Holocaust as their fall production? The town of Arcadia is 30 miles northeast of downtown Indianapolis and thousands of miles removed from the Terezin Concentration Camp where the play "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" takes place. Many of the students in the play have only had contact with Jewish culture via Fiddler on the Roof, Neal Simon

plays, Diary of Anne Frank or frozen bagels. Obviously, they had a lot to learn, and that, their director, Lee Horn says is one of the main reasons he chose to do the play.

Mr. Horn is an English and Spanish teacher at Hamilton Heights High School where the play will be performed for two nights only, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. He said, "I chose this play because with all the changes going on over in that part of the world now

it is important that we understand some of their past and learn from it. Also, history has a way of repeating itself and the Holocaust is something that should never be duplicated." The play was additionally attractive to him because it is a well-written one act play with one set that lends itself to a small stage. The basis in reality allows the young actors and actresses to empathize more with their characters.

Indeed, the students' parts in this play have heightened their sensibilities to the meaning of the Holocaust. As John Rice, who plays Hanza Kosce, said, "We studied the Holocaust in classes before, but I always thought of it as adults dying. We saw pic-

tures of men, horribly thin like skeletons, but not children. This play personalizes the Holocaust and makes you feel more than when you look at a jumble of faces staring at you from a picture.

"But the play is not just about sadness and death. Todd Neil, the father, explained that getting into character for him involves 'becoming a person who knows he is going to die but still has hope. It is about courage, and survival and pulling through together.'"

Those are not new concepts at this school and community where Ryan White found friendship and acceptance as he fought his battle with AIDS. Perhaps that is the most important reason a small rural high school like this is putting on a play about a concentration camp. Pulling through together is something they know about. Tickets are available for \$2.50 advance purchase by calling 984-3551 or \$3 at the door Friday or Saturday night.

Joshua Hedderich to be bar mitzvah

The bar mitzvah of Joshua Aaron Hedderich, son of Robin and Tom Hedderich, will take place at services Saturday Nov. 30 at Beth-El Zedeck Congregation.

Joshua is treasurer of Beth-El Teens and is a model for Act 1 Agency. He is a student at the Bureau of Jewish Education and is in the seventh grade at Carmel Jr. High School.

Maternal grandparents are Sharon and Edwin Kaplin, Louisville and paternal grandparents are Fred



and Jean Hedderich, Camden, IN.

Fineberg, Oser

Continued from page 5

The best man's role was filled by David Oser, Hoboken, N.J. Ushers were Samuel Fineberg, Indianapolis; Joshua Fineberg, Iowa City, Iowa, and Dr. Neil Frenkel, St. Louis, Mo.

The long-trained bridal gown of silk had a bodice of lace, embroidered with pearls and sequins. The bride wore a headpiece embellished with sequins on lace and a rolled edge, hip-long veil.

The future Mrs. Oser received her A.B. at Dartmouth College and her M.D. at Indiana University.

The groom finished Brown University with an A.B. He received his M.D. at Harvard University. Bride and groom both are residents in radiology at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis.

The newlyweds' wedding trip took them to Hawaii. They will be at home at 7536 Byron Place, Apt. 3, St. Louis, MO 63105.

Norm

Continued from prev. page

Bonnie Goodman and daughter Beth-Ann, and son Jay, Arnie Goldberg, Helen Engelberg, Ezra Friedlander, Bernice Benjamin, Hilda Seidman, Norm Newman, Betty Gold, Abe Ekhaus and Larry Kaseff... Enjoying a November anniversary are Ed/Naomi Fineberg; Howard/Sally Calderon; Jim/Lois Ackerman; Jack/Rose Nelson; Rose/Don Siegel. You all enjoy your celebrations.

FLASH! True or False. A stable government takes a lot of horse sense to maintain it.

Phoenix Theatre books play on Jewish widows

The Phoenix Theatre's third play of its ninth season on Friday, Nov. 29 will be Ivan Menchell's comedy "The Cemetery Club," the story of three Jewish widows getting together to visit their husbands' graves. Together the widows question each other and weave a poignant, funny tale of life after death.

"The Cemetery Club" opened in May of 1989 at the Cleveland Playhouse and was subsequently produced at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. It then moved to the

Brooks Atkinson Theatre in New York.

Playwright Ivan Menchell's father was a stand-up comedian. Menchell started performing onstage with his parents when he was two, and at thirteen graduated to writing comedy material for his father and such family friends as Jackie Mason and Phil Foster.

"The Cemetery Club" will be performed on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for Thursday/Sunday performances and \$14 for Friday/Saturday performances.

Kari Dunn to be bat mitzvah

The bat mitzvah of Kari Michelle Dunn, daughter of Sid and Linda Dunn, will take place at services at Beth Zedeck congregation Saturday, Nov. 23.

Kari is an honor roll student at Carmel Junior High School and is a member of the student council. She plays string bass in the school orchestra.

Maternal grandmother is Sylvia Cohen.



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JEWISH POST & OPINION

Prospects for peace

Although the outlook for peaceful resolution of the problems that face the negotiations seem insurmountable, in fact, the study of the prospects are hardly that foreboding. Since what is involved is negotiations that means that neither side will get all that it wants, or in other words, both sides, the Israelis and the Arabs, will settle for less than they now contend they cannot do without.

A consideration that did not exist or existed to a lesser extent when the Camp David Accords were signed is the new strength of the United Nations. Out of that recognition then can come acceptance of both sides for UN control over a period of time while the peace that it brings has a chance to work its beneficence for the flowering of the entire region. In other words, nobody will be asked to yield territory to the other, but will be required to yield complete suzerainty.

The solution for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was outlined in the Camp David Accords, and Israel's signature is on them. A similar, but not a duplicate solution will be reached on the Golan Heights, and even on East Jerusalem. In other words a combination of a time span of a number of years to allow for accommodation to the new arrangements, plus UN supervision of the agreements, plus non-militarization of the areas involved, and viola you have the outlines of peace for the Middle East.

As for Jerusalem, which touches the heart of the matter, Israel will accept, as it has on the Temple Mount, some unilateral, although not complete, control by the Palestinians of East Jerusalem.

So the U.S., as the broker, need not necessarily find itself in a position of forcing the outcome, although it will need much patience between now and then as both sides maneuver for what they consider the best bargain they can make without winning all their claims but not giving up everything either.

Meanwhile it behooves the American Jewish community to hold its peace. Israelis know all the stakes involved, and it is their destiny that is at risk. Yielding the Sinai Peninsula was probably a more serious decision than any that faces Israel in the present negotiations. Yet no one has seriously considered that a mistake on Israel's part.

Bush should act

President Bush still holds over Israel's head the threat of not supporting her request for the \$10 billion loan guarantee. In a meeting with Jewish leaders this past week, he maintained his position that consideration of the guarantee be withheld for four months, plus refused to commit himself to supporting it even at that time.

The mixture of politics with humanity considerations is a bad one at any time. But it is particularly obnoxious when Israel is about to begin negotiations which involve her future.

The interval Mr. Bush has sought has already achieved its purpose. Israel is committed to participate in negotiations, and there is almost no way, without being censured by the world at large, that Israel can cancel out and not begin serious efforts to overcome the obstacles that clearly must be resolved before peace comes to the region.

Continued on page 4

November 20, 1991 Page National 2

EDITOR'S CHAIR

The news of the bombing of the Dubrovnik synagogue reminds this writer of the only thing he knew about that ancient city and that is that every summer Sidney Hollander, one of the great Jews of his time and the man who with a few others, forgotten by now, set the liberal agenda of what still prevails in the American Jewish community. Every summer he and Mrs. Hollander visited Dubrovnik. In case the name Hollander doesn't strike a bell with some of our readers, he was a president of the Council of Jewish Federations, a leading liberal of his day, a tall impressive personality with an almost gravel voice that carried, with true leadership ability, and of course great courage. Whether our suggestion that at the CJF General Assembly this week, which we will be covering again this year as we have for some 30 or more years, some moment or so of recognition be paid to Sidney, as also with the three others from Baltimore who have been presidents of the CJF, Shoshana Cardin, Jerold Hoffberger and Lou Fox, has been added to the program, we don't know.

As far as the Dubrovnik synagogue it was hit for the fourth time. Its windows were shattered but its historic Judaica was untouched.

When Sam Rothberg called us to change the address of his subscription to the P-O this week from Peoria to Palm Springs, Ca., and we asked him about his and Jean's \$1 million contribution to the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, he told us that no one had solicited him for a contribution, and that admission, coming from the one man who was the best card caller, not excepting Henry Montor, in the history of the UJA, was a revelation. He did say that he had visited one of his close friends in Philadelphia, Dalck Feith, who is active in the promotion of the Museum, but that even Delk had not asked him for a contribution.

Someone writing the history of fundraising in America might want to put this into a chapter on some of the oddities. Such a history would be a best seller, and deserves to be written.

As far all the talk about Gov. Mario M. Cuomo of New York running for the presidency, those who heard him deliver the principal address (Mr. Shamir will be

doing that this year) at the General Assembly of the Conference of Jewish Federations some 10 years or so ago, already knew the answer, which you'll be reading about in a few days. He delivered as much a political address then as any he'll be delivering when he makes his announcement.

Milton Lambert who seems to be devoting his life to sending ambulances to Israel's Magen David Adom and has probably sent 50 or so over the years, has sent us a letter addressed to "Dear Concerned Citizens from the Council for National Interest," headed by former Congressman Paul Findley of Illinois, in which in just a few sentences spout as destructive anti-Israel propaganda as you'll ever hear. "...our attention has been so fixed on responding to Saddam Hussein that the damage being done to our national interest by another Middle East leader is virtually ignored. This other leader uses U.S.-donated arms to enforce the virtual imprisonment of two million unarmed civilians. His regime dynamites their homes, closes their schools, tortures innocent women and children and keeps them under long and cruel curfews. The leader we're talking about is none other than Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. His government discredits the people he claims to serve and dishonors principles of decency and justice that all Americans cherish."

Was the defeat of David Duke the high point in his career or will he go on to gather more support and become a real threat? Were this the 1930s in Germany, the answer would be that the eclipse in his career is temporary and that he is embarked on the road to eventual victory of his views, and his own destiny.

But this is not Germany of the 1930s, and David Duke comes on the scene at a very different time, and especially with what happened in Germany still vivid in the minds of the world.

So it well could be that David Duke is finished as a threat to democracy. Other racists have dotted the American scene in the past, but none came from a background which so thoroughly identified them for what they actually are. Duke has no mask.

Continued on page 5

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Duke headed for heights, Outspoken potential juror has her day view of Jewish observers

NEW YORK — The prevailing view in the Jewish community, if its political commentators are correct is that David Duke is embarked on a career that will take him to new and threatening heights. "Even losing, Duke is victorious," said Daniel Levitas of the Atlanta-based Center for Democratic Renewal.

"Even though Duke has been repudiated at the polls, the fact is that he received a large percentage of the Caucasian vote," said Steve Gutow, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council. This indicates that there is a hard core of racism in Louisiana and across the country."

The Jews of Louisiana, who worked night and day albeit behind the scenes, to defeat Duke, are conceding that they were more than worried. Jane Buchsbaum, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, said that Louisiana Jews were "deeply afraid. We haven't felt like that in a long while."

Rabbi Edward Cohn, who heads the New Orleans Rabbinical Council, told The Jewish Telegraphic Agency

that "Jewish professionals and businessmen of Louisiana were the backbone of fund raising efforts (for Edwards) and assistance was forthcoming from all over the country. "We tried to be invisible and behind the scenes as possible," he said.

There was one scare. A Molotov cocktail was hurled at a synagogue here, but failed to ignite.

Levitas believes that Duke is gunning for the U.S. Senate. He said that Duke will ultimately be elected to Congress from a mostly white Louisiana district next year.

From Abraham Foxman of the ADL came the view that the real message of the election was that American political ethics have changed.

"There used to be a time in this country where somebody who was a racist publicly, in the present or in the past, was automatically viewed as illegitimate in the public affairs arena. Duke declared it legitimate. You can be a neo-Nazi, a former Klansman, and you are still legitimate to run for office, to appear on 'Meet the Press' or 'Nightline.'"

Failing Israel schools debated in the Knesset

JERUSALEM — The shocking achievement test results in Israel schools have led to a call for a state commission of inquiry into failures of the educational system. Foreign Minister David Levy led the demand, but Education Minister Zevulun Hammer was not very cooperative. He said he would go along with such a commission if similar inquiries were conducted into failures of absorption officials to prevent immigrants from leaving the country, the Housing Ministry's failure to prevent young couples from emigrating and the Transport Ministry's inability to reduce road accidents."

He added that we are the only ministry that has investigated itself and publicized the results."

MK Michael Bar-Zohar, chairman of the Knesset education committee, was not that easily put off. "The embarrassing test results should have led the government to declare emergency action: adding classroom hours, developing new curricula, improving teacher training, raising teacher salaries and finding ways to funnel good teachers to the development towns."

More than 25 percent of the nation's fourth and fifth grade students failed the basic skills test in mathematics. In addition 25 percent of Jewish fifth graders failed the basic reading test and in 140 schools more than half of those tested failed both tests.

The tests were administered to some 150,000 pupils in nearly 1,300 schools.

Detroit facility for abused women

DETROIT — The local shelter for abused Jewish women which the Jewish Family Service and the Detroit Section of the National Council of Jewish Women plan to open will be modeled after the one in Toronto. Alan Goodman, executive director, and Sandra Jaffe of JFS will visit

Toronto to see how its shelter for battered women operates.

Goodman said "the Jewish community has to make a statement. If we continue to keep quiet, we deny the abuse exists. We need to create a safe place for Jewish women to make decisions for themselves."

WEST PALM BEACH — It took 79-year old Florence Orbach, who was called as a possible witness in the William Kennedy Smith case, to change the decorum of the court into humorous hysterics as she said she didn't care "who diddled who" when asked by the court if she had made up her mind about the defendant.

"I don't think it's world shattering," she added, and then added, "the worst thing I've heard about the Kennedys is that they're very smart but when they get horny, their penis takes over and their brain closes."

By this time not only the judge and the

defendant were in stitches, but the full courthouse also.

She said she didn't know whether Smith was guilty or innocent — and didn't particularly care.

She recalled that she heard her friends gossiping about the case at her condo bingo games, but only remembered two things — that the bar where he met his alleged victim later raised its drink prices and that "somebody was running around without his pants on."

"I think it was Kennedy — the fat — the Senator. He's idealistic — but maybe a little horny," she concluded.



WHERE ARE THE HUSBANDS? — There was not too much description in The Jerusalem Post of the 28 marriages that were conducted at Kiryat Malachi on a

recent Sunday. The husbands are almost hidden, although at least three of them were selected to be in the foreground.

30 Israeli peace women come to Ashwari's side

JERUSALEM — A word from President Bush seems to have persuaded Israel that it would be a mistake to arrest Hanan Ashwari, who police wanted to arrest for breaking the law by meeting with Yasir Arafat. At a meeting with 23 prominent Arab Americans at the White House, Mr. Bush is said to have expressed concern about "the plight of Hanan Ashwari", and Israel has evidently taken the hint.

Ashwari, who teaches at Bir Zeit University and who was hailed at Madrid for the way she presented the Palestinian case, told a group of 30 members of the Israeli Women's Peace Network that she was "touched" by Bush's comment that he was "thinking" about her.

Included in the Israeli women were Member of the Knesset Shulamit Aloni and Prof. Galya Golan of the Hebrew University and Yael Dayan.

Patrick Buchanan may oppose Bush

WASHINGTON — The prospect of Patrick J. Buchanan seeking the Republican nomination for the presidency against President Bush was not seen here with too much concern, but were he to defeat the incumbent

the Jewish community would have very much at stake. The conservative commentator has not been Israel's best friend and his right wing views clash with the outlook of the Jewish community.

17 N.Y. chaplains lose their jobs

NEW YORK — Faced with a funding cutback, the New York Board of Rabbis has removed chaplains from 17 institutions. Each had been requested to pay a fee

for the continuation of the service, but refused. The problem arose when the UJA-Federation reduced its \$260,000 allocation by 11.2 percent.

Board resigns, then reconsiders

CHARLOTTE — President Douglas K. Gentile and the board of Temple Beth El V'Shalom have withdrawn their resignation when the congregation refused to confirm their action not renewing the contract of Rabbi Robert A. Seigel.

The large and tumultuous congregational meeting overruled the board, which then resigned en masse, but later reconsidered.

Cholesterol-free foods developed

JERUSALEM — Eggs, butter and cream with 60 to 80 percent of cholesterol removed are just within the grasp of Hebrew University chemists. In fact the process has been perfected but there still is a small problem as the processed foods lose a bit of their taste.

Other approaches to the same problem aim at genetic manipulation or changing the diet of the chickens and the cows and other chemical techniques have been developed abroad, but the HU process is the cheapest and most effective.

Self-appointed U.S. Jewish leaders selling Israel out

JERUSALEM — If a recent editorial in The Jerusalem Post is any indication, the American Jewish community is falling down in its support of Israel and the blame is on "its mostly self-appointed Jewish leaders."

The newspaper which dropped its liberal policy when it was bought by a Canadian chain stated the case in an editorial headed, "Calling all Jews," one of whose paragraphs stated the case bluntly.

"The most influential and powerful diaspora Jewish community today is, of course, in the U.S.," the editorial began and then stated "Regrettably, the performance of its mostly self-appointed leaders has been disappointing. Many of them proved fair-weather friends, happy to defend Israel's position only when the government in Jerusalem is popular with the U.S. administration. They have been singularly

effective in the struggle for such 'motherhood' causes as the freedom of Soviet Jewry, and they united in the cause of loan-guarantees for immigrant housing when the struggle seemed safe. But when Israel and the administration clash, they revert to being court Jews of the worst kind: instead of pressing the case of their people to the administration, they act as the administration's apologists."

The editorial went on to say that "the most blatant offender is the American Jewish Congress. Its officials represent the Peace Now line, today's version of the 'peace in our time' crowd. Like the Peace Now movements in Israel, they are vocal and skilful with both the American and Israeli media; but they represent a tiny minority which dares not test its power in the polling booth."

The man whom most American Jews would

select as one of the leaders in defense of Israel, Abraham Foxman, national director of the ADL, came under strong attack also. The editorial stated:

"Disappointingly, the Anti-Defamation League, which used to take firm positions on Israel and devote much of its effort to its causes, now wastes energy on such marginal phenomena as neo-Nazi skinheads, devotes inordinate time to aggrandizing its executive director, and goes out of its way to ingratiate itself with the U.S. administration and the media. After giving lip service to the need to separate such humanitarian issues as loan guarantees from controversial political subjects like the settlements, its executive director recently made the linkage himself by warning Israel it must choose between the two."

OBITUARIES

Rabbi Jakob J. Petuchowski of HUC-JIR dies at age 66

CINCINNATI — Jakob Josef Petuchowski, Professor of Judaean-Christian Studies and Research Professor of Jewish Theology and Liturgy of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, died here at the age of 66.

A leader in the Christian-Jewish dialogue, Dr. Petuchowski was awarded the order of Merit First Class by the President of the federal Republic of Germany. He was a visiting professor at Tel Aviv Uni-

versity, Oxford University Theologische Fakultät Luzern in Switzerland and at Harvard University Divinity School.

Dr. Petuchowski published 36 books written in English, Hebrew and German in the areas of Jewish theology and liturgy, rabbinics and Judaean-Christian studies and more than 620 articles for scholarly journals. Much of his work appeared in Italian, Dutch and Spanish translations.

Frank Binswanger, dies in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA — Frank G. Binswanger, a former general chairman of the Federation's Allied Jewish Appeal Campaign, and a civic leader, died at the age of 88. He received the William Penn Award from the Greater Philadelphia

Chamber of Commerce and in 1970 was named the Delaware Valley Council "Citizen of the Year."

He was the retired chairman of the Binswanger Company, an industrial and commercial real estate development firm.

Roger Palewonsky, of Virgin Islands

ST. THOMAS, Virgin Islands — Roger M. Palewonsky, who for eight years was governor of the Virgin Islands in the 1960's died here on his 84th birthday. Born on the islands, he was appointed governor by Presi-

dent Kennedy and was responsible for substantial growth in tourism and development. He was proudest of his role in founding of the University of the Virgin Islands.

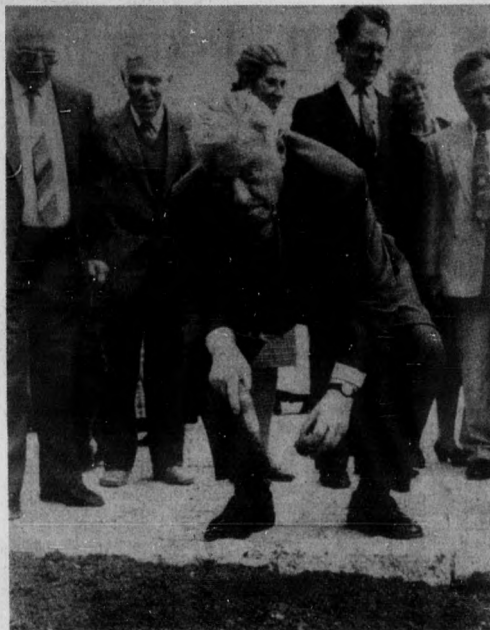
Death Notice

Dr. Jakob J. Petuchowski

The president, board of governors, boards of overseers, faculty, administration and students of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion are deeply saddened at the untimely death of Dr. Jakob J. Petuchowski, respected and beloved faculty member for nearly four decades. Dr. Petuchowski, the Sol and Ariene Bronstein Professor of Judaean-Christian Studies and Research Professor of Jewish Theology and Liturgy, touched generations of students and had a singular influence on their lives. Honored by international institutions, societies and governments, his intellectual contributions, through his writings, will be an everlasting legacy in the world of scholarship. His commitment to Judeo-Christian dialogue directed

his energies and his spirit. His colleagues are the richer for his having shared his life with them. To his beloved wife, Elizabeth, and their adoring sons, Sam, Aaron and Jonathan and their families, we extend our heartfelt sympathy. We share their sorrow. May his memory be for a blessing.

Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, President, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
Stanley P. Gold, Chairman, Board of Governors
Dr. Uri D. Herscher, Executive Vice-President
Dr. Paul M. Steinberg, Vice-President
Dr. Samuel Greengus, Vice-President for Academic Affairs



Mayor Teddy Kollek had no intention of planting more than one of the 100,000 tulip bulbs Holland has donated to Jerusalem, but he looks here as if he barely can manage that one in the Bloomfield Gardens in Jerusalem.

Marriage at age 16 runs into opposition

JERUSALEM — Although the Religious Affairs Ministry said that the idea of lowering the marriageable age by a year from 17 to 16 was merely under discussion and that there is no intention of introducing legislation on the matter in the near future, the Na'amat Women's organization has entered a protest. "The idea marches Israel back to the Middle Ages," said Masha Lubelsky. "Marriage at an early age has proven to make hostages of women later on. Sixteen-year-olds belong in school, not in maternity wards."

She added that she felt the minimum age should be raised to 18.

Na'amat is the former Pioneer Women.

Religious pressure in voting illegal

JERUSALEM — Calling down a curse or promising a blessing in elections, a practice attributed to the ultra-Orthodox, in order to secure votes for certain candidates

is now illegal in Israel. An amendment to the election law provides for five years imprisonment or a fine of \$30,000 for those found guilty of such practices.

Bush should act

Continued from page 2

So having won his major objective — bringing Israel to the peace table without any previous reservations — it well might be the merciful step that could be crucial from Israel's psychological view of the negotiations for Mr. Bush to state now his support for the loan guarantees, when that action comes before Congress.

Apologizing as he did to the Jewish delegation for his remarks which came dangerously close to group defamation that he now regrets was a courageous act, but the real reparation will come when he states his support for the loan guarantees.

Jews for Jesus lose a home in Omaha

OMAHA — The good relationship between Beth Shalom Congregation and St. James Episcopal Church who have been neighbors for 13 years' was shattered, at least temporarily, when Jews for Jesus services were announced on a wooden sign in front of the church. Albert Goldstein, president of Beth Shalom termed the action "a slap in the face to us. It's as if we put up a sign that said 'Episcopalians for Hare Krishna.'"

After Rabbi Joel Tessler and the Rev. Robert Creamer met, the month-old sign was removed, according to the Omaha Jewish Press. The pastor hopes to be able to terminate the rental agreement with Jews for Jesus.

"The pastor indicated that they had not really inquired into this group and had not been aware that it would be so offensive to our synagogue," Nathan Lewin, a past president, told The Press.

Shamir gets honorary degree, but 33 rabbis shun occasion

NEW YORK — While from the standpoint of the Jewish community at large Prime Minister Shamir's address to the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations this week will be the high mark of his visit to the U.S., obviously his meeting with President Bush Friday will have the most significance of his 10-day visit to the U.S.

In Los Angeles, where he received an honorary degree from Hebrew Union College, there was a bit of disappointment, assuming that he learned of it, when 33 Reform rabbis boycotted the event, four of them faculty members of the HUC-JIR Los Angeles campus. The 33 addressed a letter to Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk, HUC-JIR president, reminding him of Shamir's opposition to the Camp David Accords and his "cynical deals with religious zealots and extremist politicians."

In his acceptance speech, Shamir reminded his audience that "At the beginning of this century, when our national flag was unfolded, your organization was not among the most ardent supporters of the Zionist movement. But with the passage of years, the perception changed, and some of your leaders became the most outspoken advocates of our ideas and goals." He paid tribute to the late Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, and mentioned the work of the Jerusalem school of Reform.

In his talk, Shamir cautioned that the road to Middle East peace "may turn out to be full of difficulties and complications," but pledged that Israel would continue "with all our might to strive for peace."

With a bow to the house in which he was being honored, he added that despite Israel's emphasis on armed defense, "we have not become and we shall not become a martial people. Judaism has never glorified martyrs or encouraged martyrology. Judaism is a faith of life."

In a meeting with the Israeli reporters who have accompanied him, he said that in his meeting with Bush he would urge that Israel and the U.S. coordinate their policies, and warned that unless existing disagreements were resolved, neither country would achieve its peace goals.

There were some local complaints, as also on his last visit here, that he was avoiding the real leadership for those in the community who were Likud supporters.

George Caplan, immediate past president of the Federation, reminded the Prime Minister that when a major Israeli government figure comes to town his first order of business should be to meet with the men and women who spearhead the community campaigns for Israel. As it was, a brief, private reception with key contributors was tacked on to Shamir's schedule at the last minute.

In that connection, Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador to Washington, reminded reporters that Shamir is not only the head of the Israeli government but also of Likud.

Russian immigration continues to decline

JERUSALEM — Although the Jewish Agency's budget for 1992 calls for a Russian aliya of 170,000, the immigration rate has dropped drastically during the third quarter of 1991, falling to less than half that recorded during the second quarter. The second quarter figures included the 16,450 Ethiopian Jews, yet the drop in Russian aliya was from 54,250 to 30,250.

Meanwhile on the other side of the coin, a survey shows that nearly 30 percent of the Soviet immigrants who have arrived since September 1989 would like to live elsewhere, five percent of whom would prefer to return to the Soviet Union. In addition just over half of the new immigrants said they are advising friends and relatives in the Soviet Union to delay their aliya.

Uri Gordon, the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department head, said that barring a dramatic

Continued on page 8

Editor's chair

Continued from page 2

His appeal to the disgruntled is standard more or less for political aspirants, but when combined with his racism, makes him persona non grata to the majority in any free society.

We believe his loss in an election in a state where his program might have had greater appeal spells the end of David Duke as any kind of a factor from now on. Oh yes, he'll be around, but mostly as a nuisance. His career in politics, though, is at an end.



BRITAINS CHAMPIONS — Viva Seifert, 19, of London, Britain's national rhythmic gymnastics champion, competed at the world championships in Athens, securing a place for her country in the Olympics at Barcelona.

Russian primate invites Jews

NEW YORK — Bearing only good tidings and offering the hand of the Russian Orthodox Church for better relations with Jews, meanwhile condemning anti-Semitism, Aleksey II, patriarch of Moscow and primate of the Church which claims some 70 million adherents, set in motion what hopefully will become an important dialogue with the world Jewish community. He invited a delegation of Jewish leaders to visit Moscow for that purpose.

"The hierarchy, clergy and theologians of our church decisively and openly condemn any manifestation of anti-Semitism, hostility, as well as pogroms against Jews," he

told a meeting of rabbis organized by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

Duke distributes Holocaust record

DURHAM — The ruckus over the full-page ad in the Duke University student publication declaring that the Holocaust was a fake with the publication defending its policy on the grounds of freedom of speech has died down as officials of the school distributed information on the Holocaust to the entire campus.

Michigan prints offensive ad too

ANN ARBOR, MICH. — What evidently was the same ad that appeared in the Duke University Student Paper denying the Holocaust and which has led to distribution by Duke authorities of campus-wide information on the Holocaust has appeared in the Michigan Daily, campus student paper.

A hastily called student meeting drew 300 in the rain. Prof. Todd Endelman, one of the speakers, said the sponsors of the ad, which was signed by Bradley R. Smith of the California-based Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust, said the organization's only real goal is to sow hatred of the Jews. He explained that Smith was formerly a spokesman for the Institute for Historical Review and was linked to Liberty Lobby, a white-supremacist group.



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Mamet's 'Homicide' murders Jewish image

By **RABBI ELLIOT B. GERTEL**

Who would have thought that a police drama punctuated by suspenseful warfare against drug-dealers and police-killers would hit every



raw nerve of American Jewish identity crisis, or that the real crime of a film filled with street violence would be the thoughtlessness of the film-maker himself who utterly wastes a fine cast and a moving scenario by parading the fears and conflicts of some Jews to the extent that Jewish concerns virtually intersect with anti-Semitic slurs? But all of this has really and irrevocably occurred in David Mamet's film, *Homicide*, an absorbing picture which could have offered perspective and direction, but insists instead on being the most artful possible exercise in rendering "Jewish issues" to be selfish, perverse and perhaps even misanthropic — all charges by the way, of the very first anti-Semites of the ancient Hellenistic world.

In *Homicide*, Joe Mantegna is superb at portraying a Jewish police officer, Robert Gold, who, as his Irish partner and best friend (nicely played by William H. Macy) puts it, always has to be the first one through the door in any raid on a vicious criminal. Gold is a Jewish hero, perhaps the most memorable Jewish hero to date in a big screen blockbuster. He is, to be sure, a different kind of hero from the run-of-the-mill action picture hero, past or present. His is not the might of brawn, though he does have physical presence. Rather, he has more guts than anyone, literally running into forbidding doors and into creepy tunnels and laybrinths and rooftops. His courage, which borders on foolhardiness camouflaged by procedural skills, enables him to plummet the most forbidden depths and to scale the heights to which criminals would flee or from where they would do their worst.

Yet our Jewish "hero" is November 20, 1991 Page National 6

built up not so much to argue for Jewish virtues or to become a paradigm of Jewish ideals. Instead, Mamet does something that no Jewish film-maker has done before: He creates a Jewish hero in order to show that the very concept of a "Jewish hero" is ambiguous perhaps even elusive. If Gold is brave, it is only because he is driven by the prejudice of those who doubt that Jews can make competent and manly cops. If Gold is the compassionate negotiator who really cares about others, it is only because this is the role that he has been assigned in his police world, and he, as the Jewish outsider, must play it well.

We do not find out these

Our Jewish "hero" is built up not so much to argue for Jewish virtues or to become a paradigm of Jewish ideals. Instead, Mamet does something that no Jewish film-maker has done before: He creates a Jewish hero in order to show that the very concept of a "Jewish hero" is ambiguous, perhaps even elusive. If Gold is brave, it is only because he is driven by the prejudice of those who doubt that Jews can make competent and manly cops.

things about Gold until he confesses them to an Israeli agent at the height of the film. At first we wonder whether he is skillful and sensitive and understanding because the film-maker wants to present these as "Jewish" traits. Yet we get out first clue that all is not right with Gold when, at the very beginning of the film, he becomes virtually paralyzed and dysfunctional after an African American police official calls him a "kike." He is too upset even to fight back; his partner has to get indignant for him. It is then that we begin to learn that Gold is completely "outer-directed," to use the term of sociologist David Riesman. There is nothing in Gold, whether loyalty or values or virtues that he has not cultivated because others have either expected them of the "house Jew" or been skeptical that any Jew could possess them.

Apart from his desire to impress or to convince others, Gold has no faith, no substance, no ideals of his own.

Just when Gold is about to bring about a major breakthrough in bringing to justice an archevil cop-killing felon, he finds himself detained along the way by the shooting death of the proprietress of a small store in the black ghetto, an elderly woman who wears a Jewish star. Gold is completely resentful and totally impatient with being sucked into such a case. If he has to fight crime in a dangerous black neighborhood, he will not fight petty crime; he will go for the arch-villain who represents everyone's

the film that one realizes that Gold requires such evil, and in the most frightening neighborhoods, which happen to be black, in order to have a *raison d'être*, both as an individual and as a "Jew" defined by his fellow cops as such. "Jewish cop" is his only definition, and he has to be a cop among cops to be defined.

Gold is further disgusted by his being caught up in the investigation of the murder of the old Jewish woman when he is told he must leave his big case and take this one because the Jewish family, who wield a lot of influence at city hall, have requested him, and they are, after all, "his people." He resents being called to this Jewish family's large apartment because of their claim that someone has fired shots on the roof. He sneaks away from "the Jews" by calling his friend from their study and complaining about how hysterical, nervous and paranoid they are, decrying their constant fear of anti-Semites, their misuse of money and influence to get what they want just because they "Pay more taxes," and their "forcing" their mother and grandmother to stay in the old neighborhood to make a few bucks more while her son the doctor and his family live in such a posh apartment.

He also complains that these Jews are keeping him from a major case because of their brooding about a candy store murder.

He even says that Jews are responsible for anti-Semitism. After he puts down the telephone, he sees that the murder victim's granddaughter is in the room. When he apologizes for saying what she has overheard, she tells him that she doesn't want his sympathy, but that she expected some respect in the "house of the dead." Decrying his slurs against "The Jews," she asks him whether he belongs anywhere.

Mamet does an excellent job at portraying a Jew, and a likable Jew at that, who is what the late Rabbi Milton Steinberg called "hollow shell, a Jewish zero, a Hebraic cipher, a vacuum... flooded inevitably with hostile notions about Jews. The anti-Semite convinces him." And in all fairness to Mamet, we have

to say that he exquisitely handles the next step in his little tale, namely, to depict Gold as gradually discovering that there is something just as fascinating, nay, more fascinating about that old lady and those Jews than about any investigation that he has ever handled, even in the most dangerous of neighborhoods.

Gold finds more intrigue and danger and stimulation in the past of the old woman, and in the clues as to her possible killers, than in anything he has ever investigated. He stumbles upon the saga of gun-runners for the Israel War of Independence, Nazi war criminals, Israeli agents who are ruthless in their desire to protect the Jewish State. He becomes fascinated with Yiddish whispers, impressed with confident Hebrew statements, overwhelmed with the power of Jewish libraries to preserve ancient treasures and to mount vigils against old enemies. He becomes obsessed with a desire to somehow have a "home" as a Jew, to act and not simply react as Jew.

Mamet presents Gold's yearnings in a moving, even riveting fashion. Any viewer who is concerned about Jewish identity will be extremely touched by segments of this film, but only, alas, briefly.

For as consumed as Gold is to find a "home" as a Jew, that is how determined Mamet is to show that his character thereby becomes vulnerable to unattractive, perhaps even ugly, aspects of Jewish life and peoplehood. Gold is constantly made to feel ignorant and inadequate as Jew. The more he wants to become involved, the more he is dismissed and even mocked by "committed" and "knowledgeable" Jews.

The only "religious" Jew in the film, who is rude and dressed in ultra-orthodox garb to depict "religion" as exotic and extreme, is a rather eccentric, even raving pedant who makes Gold feel like a nothing for not being able to read Hebrew, and whose idea of spirituality is to delve into esoteric trivia that border on magic and thus make "Judaism" seem medieval and irrelevant. The Jewish library, traditionally symbolic of a heritage, a spiritual home, be-

JEWISH THEATER

2 fine shows — Shmulnik's Waltz and Marriage Contract

By IRENE BACKALENICK

In making dire predictions about the New York season of Jewish shows, it turns out that we were premature! We have been hap-



pily surprised by the two shows which have just opened — "The Marriage Contract" at the Folksbiene Theatre and the Jewish Repertory Theatre's "Shmulnik's Waltz." Both are absolutely top-drawer — each in its own and very different way. Yes, Jewish theater is alive and well in New York after all.

The dazzling show at the Jewish Repertory Theatre, "Shmulnik's Waltz," comes as a total surprise. Considering it is a new play by a somewhat unknown writer and with a cast devoid of "names," we approached the evening with reservations and doubts. The only theatrically-familiar names on hand were composer David Shire and director Gordon Hunt.

"Shmulnik's Waltz" begins in deceptively low-key style, and in fact remains so throughout the evening. We get no cheap sentimentality, no obvious plays here. Actor Steve Routman begins on stage, taking the audience into his confidence, and soon moves out into the aisles. Before we know what is happening to us, we have succumbed to his spell. We begin to care about this ragged, balding little fellow — this clown, philosopher, dreamer. He is in fact, Mr. Jewish Everyman, a Wandering Jew, and poet, an intellect, a lover (or would-be lover). He roams the world in search of his own true love — and finally finds her on New York's Lower East Side. But she, too, turns out to be a surprise, a surprise not to be revealed here.

The plot has resonances of "Cyrano," "Jakobovsky and the Colonel," and even Jimmy Cagney's "Strawberry Blonde," but Allan Knee can be forgiven for incorporating familiar plot devices. There are, they say, only a limited number of stories in this world. And though Knee has

been derivative, he has made the material his own — his own vision, his own language, his own play. Real yet surreal, intensely personal yet universal, a comedy that hovers on the rim of tragedy, it welds all elements together beautifully.

And "Shmulnik's Waltz" comes to life in this particular production under Hunt's direction. He stages Shmulnik's epic journey on the JRT's pocket-size stage with a sure, professional hand — true to Knee's vision and yet working within the JRT's stage limitations. He has assembled a fine group of actors, particularly Steve Routman in the lead. Marilyn Pasekoff is hilarious as the Jewish prostitute, and Rob Gomes turns in a fine comic performance as Shmulnik's rival. Rounding out this superior cast are Stephen Singer, Wendy Kaplan, Ilana Levine and Robert Katims.

And further uptown at the Folksbiene Theatre (now in its 76th year) is one of that venerable company's best shows to date. But even if "The Marriage Contract" weren't a quality production, it would still be heartwarming to attend an all-Yiddish show. We are able to reconnect with our roots, unearth our memories of the past, rediscover our forebears. Even if we know only

ten Yiddish words, the words find answering echo deep within us.

But it's good theater too. "The Marriage Contract" is an charming tale of the faltering ways of true love. In Tel Aviv a young girl is about to be married, but her future mother-in-law, a proper lady, wants to be sure the official papers are in order. In particular, she wants to see the marriage contract of the girl's parents (a couple who have lived together for 25 years). Unfortunately, those papers are not forthcoming. The girls' parents were early kibbutzniks. "And who bothered with papers in those days?" says the mother. "You went together into a family room, and that was that." In a frantic search for the papers, to validate their "marriage," the older couple reevaluate their whole relationship, as do the younger pair.

Israeli playwright Ephraim Kishon's

"Marriage Contract" is part comedy, part farce, part human drama. Originally written in Hebrew, this delightful piece has been translated into French, German and Yiddish, enjoying numerous productions before its current run. Under Howard Rosen's direction, this production moves at a lively pace and is blessed with a talented cast. David Rogow, with his sense of comic timing, is an absolute gem as the beleaguered father, and Zypora Spaisman, as his "wife," gives her usual solid performance. As Shifra, she displays a mix of patience, good sense, shrewdness and dry wit, trademarks of the Spaisman acting style. Shira Flam makes a charming daughter,

and Richard Carlow and Sandy Levitt are good foils for each other as her competing suitors. Diana Cypkin, as the troublesome neighbor, rounds out this fine cast.

"The Marriage Contract" offers an evening of solid entertainment, as well as a return to the past. (And those of us with a limited knowledge of the mother tongue can easily follow the story through simultaneous translation, provided by earphones.)

As for "Shmulnik's Waltz," at the Jewish Rep, it is absolutely not to be missed! Run, phone, get to the box office, but order those tickets now!

Notes: "Finkel's Follies," which has been running in preview at off-Broadway's John Houseman Studio Theatre, opens officially Dec. 15. This show, which was so well-received on the West Coast, traces the history of Yiddish vaudeville, drawing on its venerable skits and songs. Featured is Fyush Finkel, old-time Yiddish actor and vaudevillian, as well as members of his family... "Those Were the Days," which had a successful five-month Broadway run last season, is still on tour. This delightful English-Yiddish revue makes its appearance in Cleveland, Los Angeles, Boston, Los Angeles, Ft. Lauderdale, Tampa, Miami Beach, Palm Beach, Washington DC, Rockville MD, Birmingham MI and Chicago. Still featured are seasoned troupers Mina Bern, Eleanor Reissa, Robert Abelson and Lori Wilner, but



(L to R) Diane Cypkin, Shira Flam and Zypora Spaisman in a scene from "The Marriage Contract," the Ephraim Kishon comedy at the Folksbiene Theatre, 123 E. 55th St.

Stuart Zagnit ("Kuni-Leml") has replaced Bruce Adler. It's a show worth catching; check your local papers for

exact dates and places.

Irene Backalenick may be reached at 373 Greens Farms Rd., Westport, CT 06880

ABOUT BOOKS

By JACK FISCHER

Coming in November is still another controversial book about Israel. Peter Sichrovsky's *Abraham's Children: Israel's Young*



Generation (Pantheon, \$19) argues that Israel is a crumbling mosaic, not a melting pot. The author interviewed 26 young Israeli Jews about life in Israel, and most of the responses were negative. Sample! "They call us black," says Yakov, a Jew of Libyan descent who hates being in the Army Reserve

and "Having to go against Arabs." One must reserve judgment until reading the entire volume, but the general tenor of the book runs against the evidence that Israel has made tremendous inroads in dealing with its "color" problem.

Of special importance in the field of Jewish studies is *The Origins of Judaism: Religion, History and Literature in Late Antiquity*, edited by Jacob Neusner with William Scott Green. The 20 volumes contained in this project includes more than 300 of the most important essays written on formative Judaism in the past 50 years. (Garland, \$1,425). Also coming in November is *From the Ends of the Earth: Judaic Treasures of the Library of Congress by Abraham Karp* (Rizzoli, \$50). The volume relates of

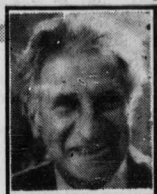
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In praise of the dead

By YAACOV LURIA

When Billy Martin, the legendary turbulent Yankee, died in a car crash a few years ago, he confronted sportswriters with a prob-



lem. On the one hand, they tried to abide by the rule of *de mortuis nil nisi bonum* — say only good of the dead. On the other hand, the truth deserved some respect. Martin was a hard-drinking brawler and a ruthless driver of men. A *mentsch* he wasn't.

The scribes tried hard to make Martin out to be a pretty good sort, all things considered. All right, he stole fruit from poor grocers. But when he came into some money, he paid them back. He could even tell a funny story on himself. Like the time he went hunting and killed a cow. And he was a true Yankee. None truer.

One sportswriter held back until the end of his piece. Then he conceded that Martin would talk about Reggie Jackson as "the nigger" and about a pitcher named Ken as "the Jew." He was "vile" to reporters. The last sentence in the piece said it all: "I shed no tears."

Rabbis who deliver eulogies at random have even harder problems than obit writers. Often they never met the deceased. Someone hands an officiating rabbi a scrap of paper with some skimpy information. The

next moment the rabbi must speak with conviction and eloquence about the life of an utter stranger.

Picture the plight of one rabbi who wasn't given even the name of the deceased. He fidgeted on the pulpit of the funeral parlor waiting for inspired words to come to him. They didn't. In desperation he threw himself at the mercy of the small audience gathered before him.

"Friends, help me!" he pleaded. "I never knew the deceased. Will one of you kind people who knew and loved him please come forward and say a few words in praise of him." no one stirred.

The rabbi wiped his brow. "We cannot let the deceased go to his heavenly rest without a farewell. Our tradition requires a *hesped*, at least a few words of mourning, of comfort. Please." No takers.

"I have no choice then but to warn you that you are all guilty of a serious sin: hard-heartedness. May God forgive you!"

At this point, a man shuffled up the aisle to the pulpit. "The rabbi says to say something nice about Harry. What can I tell you? That he was good? He was so miserable to his wife that he drove her to divorce him. That he was pious? He never went to shul even on Yom Kippur. That he was charitable? If he knew you were coming to collect for the UJA, he wouldn't open his door. But one good thing I will say for Harry. His brother Seymour was even worse."

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Immigration

Continued from page 5

change in absorption policy the current Soviet immigration figures of 10,000 a month, will slow down.

A side comment on what is happening in absorption came as it was disclosed that the Absorption Ministry along with the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Jewish Agency was giving "special treatment" to the top 10,000 artists and performers among the Soviet olim. The unusual benefits to 2000 of them were said to be from "very good" to "excellent" and to include subsidies for music and seed money to set up orchestras plus ensembles and scholarships to conservatories.

Reporting in The Jerusalem Post from Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Walter Ruby said that eight Bukharan families had returned in recent months from Israel and that more were expected.

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Herman Melville's 'Clarel'

By ELY E. PILCHIK

In 1851 Herman Melville produced the American classic "Moby-Dick or The Whale," which I, with pardonable choice, regard as



the finest work of American fiction yet written. Why? Because with poetic prose and rhapsodic spirit he wrote of man's evil (the deranged whaling ship captain) and man's goodness. He tells us in "Moby-Dick": Men may seem detestable as joint stock-companies and nations; knaves, fools and murderers there may be; men may have mean and meagre faces; but man, in the ideal, is so noble and sparkling, such a grand and glowing creature, that over any ignominious blemish in him all his fellows should run to throw their costliest robes. That immaculate manliness we feel within ourselves, so far within us, that it remains intact through all outer character seem gone... But this august dignity I treat of, is not the dignity of kings and robes, but that abounding dignity which has no robbed investiture. Thou shalt see it shining in the arm that wields a pick or drives a spike; that democratic dignity which, on all hands, radiates without end from God; Himself! The great God absolute! The centre and circumference of all democracy! His omnipresence, our divine equality!"

Melville was happily married when he penned this tribute to man as a son of God in his marvelous "Moby-Dick."

For all that, he was in poor health and devoid of wealth and had not yet attracted a meaningful readership.

The Civil War had broken out and Melville joined the Union forces. In 1866 he left the armed forces, he was then 47 years of age and felt defeated, but he did not stop writing. He picked up a job as an inspector in the Custom House. He described that position as "a most inglorious one; indeed, worse than driving geese to wa-

ter."

Then he took a trip, a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This led to his 20,000 line poem "Clarel" which was finally published in 1876. The Land of Israel touched him deeply. He came across all sorts of different people. "I am offering myself up" he wrote, "as a passive subject, and no unwilling one, to the weird impression of Jerusalem." He was overwhelmed by the landscape, the arid hills, the melancholy olive trees, the encrusted hills, the bones of rocks. He asked: "Is the desolation of the land the result of the fatal embrace of the Deity? Hapless are the favorites of Heaven." The Dead Sea with its bitter water left a bitter taste in his mouth and it symbolized the utter bitterness of life. "Bitter it is to be poor and bitter to be reviled, and oh, bitter are these waters of death, thought I."

Melville is Clarel in the poem, a student who comes to Jerusalem to find greater depth in life from that older people, the Jews, who may bring him back to wholeness. Clarel, wandering around Jerusalem meets up with an American named Nathan who had converted to Judaism. He falls in love with Nathan's daughter, Ruth. Her father is killed one day by Arabs. Clarel is not permitted to visit the house of mourning. Clarel is lonely. He wanders about as a pilgrim to Bethlehem. He becomes troubled, pessimistic. He sings:

"The world is portioned out, believe:/ The good have but a patch at best,/ The wise in their corner, for the rest —/ Malice divides with ignorance."/

Long and weary was Melville's pilgrimage to the Holy Land even as his poem "Clarel." He left bereft of the love of his Jewish maiden. And yet that love even in its loss did give him

something of a life-lift. Melville closes the 571 page poem of "Clarel" with:

Then Keep the heart, thought yet but ill-resigned —/ Clarel, thy heart, the issues there but mind;/ That like the crocus budding through the snow —/ That like a swimmer rising from the deep —/ That like a burning secret which doth go/ Even from the bosom that would hoard and keep/ Emerge thou mayst from the last whelming sea,/ And prove that death but rants life into victory."

Lewis Mumford in his excellent book, "Herman Melville" (published by Harcourt Brace and Company in 1929), sums up: "At the end of Clarel, Melville found life, not good or bad, malicious or forbearing, true or false. Something more important had happened; he found it livable. In that mood the days that followed the Civil War were spent, quiet, chastened, subdued, temperate days..."

Later John Updike in the May 10, 1982 issue of The New Yorker wrote a truly great piece called "Melville's Withdrawal." He writes: "Melville embarked for the Holy Land with, my presumption is, the reasonable hope that this voyage would yield the material for another picturesque journal, and his reactions in Palestine were negative but forceful. Of Jerusalem, he wrote, 'The color of the whole city is grey and looks at you like a cold grey eye in a cold old man...' In the emptiness of the lifeless antiquity of Jerusalem the emigrant Jews are like flies that have taken up their abode in a skill.' Barrenness and decay assaulted his senses."

Would that Melville and his brilliant critic Updike could see Jerusalem today.

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Some of Golan to Syria: Peres

JERUSALEM — Making the point that "as every child knows" it is "nonsense" to oppose any withdrawal whatsoever, former Prime Minister Shimon Peres called publicly for "territorial compromise" on the Golan Heights. He made the statement as the Labor Party hammered out the platform it will present to the voters at a time when

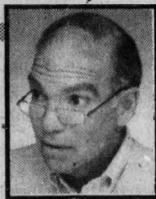
the party is in disarray with Yitzhak Rabin contending that the party must adopt clear positions on the peace issue which differentiate it not only from Likud but also from the "leftist extremists", without naming anybody.

Labor registered its lowest public approval rating against Likud in recent public opinion surveys.

Olive branches and time warps

By JAMES SHIPLEY

There certainly have been a number of images during and since the Madrid Conference. Some have come from TV, many have come



from memory.

Here are the Palestinians, exchanging stones for olive branches and getting ready to sit down and talk about autonomy. One flashes back to the Camp David accords. If they would have done it then, the five-year transition period would have been long gone and we would have been on to other phases. But during that time they clung to the impossible dream that they could push Israel into the sea with a little help from their friends.

Those olive branches. I remember Yasir Arafat coming to the bima at the UN with gun in hand (even Castro didn't have that kind of chutzpah). He offered a choice then — the gun or the olive branch. Well, he tried a number of years of one, is he now really going to try the other?

There is Hanan Ashwari, so recently come to the fore as spokesperson for the Palestinians. What is the base for her forum? Why it is a university in Judea. One which was not permitted during the Jordanian 19 years in the area. No, it was Israel who opened this school and gave Ms. Ashwari her forum and her notoriety, thank you.

There is talk of what to do with Gaza. This is almost as old as history itself. Israel took Gaza in a lightning strike in 1956. Did she want the defunct port? Did she want that barren patch of sand? Did she want to inherit the rampant unemployment and the Egyptian created refugee camps? Hardly.

What Israel wanted to do was to stop the terrorist attacks coming across the border (attacks by the way, which have just started again from Egyptian Sinai). Within days of the Israeli withdrawal, Gazans hung from every date palm along

the grand boulevard of Gaza. Hanging randomly selected Gazans was a regular feature of life under the Egyptians until 1967 when the strip of land went back to Israel.

The Camp David Accords bogged down over the future of Gaza. Egypt did not want it, Israel did not necessarily want to keep it. They decided to allow the Gazans to choose for themselves. G-d forbid they vote to continue Israeli rule over the area.

In this world of sound bites and imagery, perception becomes reality. Pretty smart of Yitzhak Shamir to take Bibi Netanyahu along instead of his Gerald Ford Type Foreign Minister. Bibi was a great spokesperson to the West. David Levy cannot speak English.

So now, where from here? Well, Syria has made it pretty plain that not much has changed. She has her \$2 billion plus for a non-fatal sojourn in the Kuwaiti desert. She has her new friends in the American President and his Texas Secretary of State. She still has her extremely lucrative drug trade in the Bekka. She still harbors most of the world's leading terrorists. Why negotiate?

The Little King of Jordan, always a gutless follower of trends (and not too often the right ones), is still waffling. He has precluded any lead-

ership role. Just as well. As soon as he takes a stand either way, he's a dead man.

The sadness of the Conference is that the focus now seems to be almost entirely on Israel and the Palestinians. The half-time show has become the game. The band has taken over as the offensive team. Whatever the result, it has nothing to do with the object of the contest.

The images of 1949 come to mind, when Ralph Bunche had to go from room to room because the Arabs would not meet face to face with Israel. That was a healthier atmosphere than the personal attack on Shamir by the Syrian foreign minister. Combined with his outrageous lies about Syrian Jewry, he almost made mockery of the whole thing.

Well; guns, olive branches or wasted rhetoric, at least the bloody thing is under way. The American President is postponing the second half of his world tour for a while. We are supposed to convene again in Washington. Interesting. The terrorists from Syria will get in while AIDS patients from Canada are barred from the United States. You want to talk about a strange world?

James Shipley may be reached at 283 W. Lake Faith Dr., Maitland, FL 32751

Proselytizing in schools seems okay in Nashville

NASHVILLE — The tactics of a proselytizing group called Young Life which visits the city's high schools at lunch time to meet and invite students to parties and homes disguising their real motives was the subject of an article in The Observer, publication of the local Jewish Federation.

Joyce Fox told Margot Nash, author of the article, that both her children were approached during the school day by individuals from off-campus organizations who invited them to outside activities. "One of my daughters wanted to go. She told us they were going to somebody's house to have party. It would just be fun. She had no idea they were a religious organization. We told her what Young Life is."

Frank Bloch, Vanderbilt law professor and chair of the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Committee, said that while Young Life does have the authority to come into the schools after hours under the Equal Access Law they are not willing to abide by the restrictions the law imposes.

6th daughter has complaint

JERUSALEM — The letter in The Jerusalem Post was from Moriah Indor, and it brought an apology from the paper, which stated that "no offense was meant."

The letter read:

Sir - According to your report of Oct. 29, "Volunteer guardians of Israel," Meir Indor has five daughters. I am the sixth. I am aged two, and I am really offended that you didn't mention me."

Public relations, the need

By ALFRED FLEISHMAN

There is little question about it, Israel and maybe the entire middle east situation, is now cast in a different format.



What has created this situation, in my judgment, has been the discovery by the Palestinians that they can get more money, at the very least better understanding of their situation, by the use of the modern public relations tactics or methods.

The big question in my mind is have the Israelis recognized the almost total complete changes that have taken place, at least as of now?

Imagine what the world saw after Madrid! Palestinians returning to their homes receiving the welcome of battlefield heroes!

Imagine the parade of olive branches carried by Palestinians instead of guns, stones, clubs and whatever!

How long this will last no one can foretell in that quagmire of political strife and disagreement.

But for now, the world had been able to see on every television screen the groups of Palestinians youths, who just a few weeks ago it seems, were throwing Molotov cocktails and rocks, but were now waving and pushing olive tree branches in the faces of the patrolling Israeli troops. Soldiers who had been chasing them down the streets with clubs or firing rubber bullets only a short time ago.

And if I am any judge of the looks on the faces of the Israeli soldiers, they were just as surprised as many others.

The point is that the world has seen Palestinians, not in that unshaven ugly face of Yasir Arafat, but in what looked like Brooks Brothers, or at least Oxford or Hickey Freeman suits, and the best of taste in women's clothes, speaking in normal, cultured, tones, making point after point, as if they were angels speaking for a persecuted people

pleading for understanding.

No hate under covered faces and no Arab head-dress, etc. Just ordinary guys and women looking for a place to live, govern themselves, and to raise their families and educate their kids, just like every other people.

To lose sight of this turn of events could be one of Israel's tragedies.

But you see, I can't help but remember, as I sat on that platform in Israel two years ago at an International meeting of Jewish journalists, pleading for Israel to take another look at its public relations and then listening to the entire group of over 300 writers being told by a deputy Foreign Minister no less, that public relations was a lot of nonsense and that Israel had used up thousands of words and what did it get them!

And he was in charge, he said, of hasbara, Israeli propaganda for the Foreign Office! Sometimes when readers read into my column signs of frustration, you can understand better where it comes from.

If that thinking still persists in the face of what is so plain a fact, that the Palestinians are getting public relations advice from the highest and best sources and what is more to the point, they seem to be taking it, then Israel and, I be-

lieve, the entire Diaspora is in trouble.

Calling the Syrians and the Palestinians new names and giving them the opportunity to hold up old 'wanted' posters so the world can see, of Israeli officials, just won't do it.

I hope, and I have to believe, that at this very moment in the highest Israeli quarters that public relations must be receiving the highest priority.

Israel, and I believe the entire Jewish people are now playing on a world stage and in the next few months how we handle ongoing public relations situations, with an awakened Palestinian leadership, may very well determine how things are going to work out.

Besides, the Palestinians have their own internal problems and it would do the world good to be able to see that they are not the reasonable and united group they seemed to portray in Madrid.

Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard law professor, international champion of human rights, civil liberties, and Jewish dignity, has written a very controversial book whose theme is summed up in its title: Jews need more assertiveness, more political activism, more temerity in preserving the Jewish People.

When Dershowitz spoke last week at the Front Row Theatre, his main thrust was to articulate an important agenda for the Jewish people: fighting anti-Semitism.

During the question and answer period, I told Dershowitz that the part of his speech I like most of all was the following: "The cement of anti-Semitism that has kept us together for so many years is not enough. We have to plan for success. Do we want the epitaph of Judaism to read: 'It was a wonderfully adaptive religion during times of crisis and tragedy, but it failed us when we succeeded. We didn't know how to use it to persuade our children of its positive aspects.'" I then asked, "What positive program does Alan Dershowitz follow to assure the kind of success that would assure our children a solid Jewish future?" His book, speech and the question-and-answer period dealt with anti-Semitism. Where is the positive program?

His answer was quite unsatisfying. He said that each person must find his own way, which is easy to agree with, and that his way was through political activism. Which is fine, but not enough.

Nov. 9, the 53rd anniversary of Kristallnacht, is the day which some designate as the beginning of the Holocaust. There are appropriate ceremonies and observances to commemorate this important date in Jewish and world history, as there should be, I fear that for far too many people, fighting anti-Semitism is the be-all and end-all of Jewish existence. Yet this is not enough!

In his book, Dershowitz quotes a secular literary figure of the USSR, Ilya Ehrenburg, who announced after the Holocaust, that "so long as there is a single anti-Semite in the world, I shall declare with pride that I am a Jew." Why can Mr. Ehrenburg, whose statement Dershowitz often cites, declare with pride that he is a Jew only when there is anti-Semitism in the world? Is that the only thing that pushes him to shout his pride in his faith and heritage and ethnic origins?

Dershowitz also tells a story related to him by novelist Herman Wouk, an Orthodox Jew. When Wouk was in Cracow working on the TV version of his book, *War and Remembrance*, he put on his *tallit* and *tefillin* one morning, as he did daily, and later in the morning went to visit a small Jewish Museum where he saw a pair of *tefillin*. It was seen under a glass cover, with the following legend: "These are *tefillin* which used to be worn by Jews while they prayed." Dershowitz continues: "Herman (Wouk) told me how it struck him with special power precisely because he had just finished praying with his *tefillin*. I responded that the story had even greater impact on me because I was one of those Jews who used to wear *tefillin* when I prayed every day."

The next

sentence struck me as particularly interesting. "I was — am — one of those Jews, as are my children, who are making the museum case statement come true. If anything could drive me back to *tefillin*, it would not be religious conviction; it would be a political desire to fight those who want to see Judaism and Jews relegated to interesting museum exhibits and poignant memorials."

There you have it. In truth, besides encouraging political activism, Mr. Dershowitz has done very little to pass on the heritage of Judaism to his children. The impression I get is that his children are very assimilated and don't have anywhere near the commitment to Judaism, the Jewish People, and Jewish learning that Alan does. He attended a Yeshiva for 12 years and is a knowledgeable Jew, but what about the next generation? Is his kind of Judaism strong enough, deep enough, to preserve what he received from his parents and pass it on to his children? It seems doubtful.

I only wish that the title of Dershowitz's book were not *Chutzpah*, but *Nachas*. Maybe it would not have sold as many copies, because *nachas* is not a term that is as well known as *chutzpah*, and because the world respects and admires the Jewish People today for its *chutzpah* — for its courage in recreating its national existence in the State of Israel after 200 years of exile. *Chutzpah* is an admirable trait, at least the way Dershowitz uses it. To him, it means assertiveness, standing up for one's right, a quality which has helped keep the Jewish People alive. Doubtless we need much more of it today, as he so eloquently explains in his book. But it simply doesn't go far enough.

Chutzpah is important for Jews who have a background like that of Alan Dershowitz, 12 years in a yeshiva, where he studied Bible, Talmud, Jewish philosophy, Jewish history, and the Hebrew language. As an educated Jew, he can therefore be a proud, self-respecting Jew who can fight for the Jewish People, because he knows what and for whom he is fighting.

But, sadly, his children don't know that! They only know that it's important to fight to protect Jews, human rights, and civil liber-

The chutzpah controversy

By Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins

ties. But who are these strange Jews, and what is their unique heritage that demands fighting for? I don't think they really know, and when the battle is over and won, what is left? What will sustain them? Dershowitz asks the right question, but he just doesn't give any adequate answer. His own life doesn't provide an answer, and I am afraid that he and his children are going to continue to be Jews who testify to the truth of the museum statement:

Jews are a people who used to wear tefillin? Jews are a people who used to keep Shabbat? Jews are a people who used to pray? Jews are a people who use to study about their history and their culture?

Jews are a people who used to know who they were, and were proud of their identity because it was part of their daily existence, in more ways than just fighting off the enemy. And they will crawl out of the woodwork and scream to the rooftops their pride in being Jewish when the Arabs cross the borders of Israel with their tanks, or when someone says God doesn't hear the prayers of Jews, or when a Ku Klux Klanner runs for governor of Louisiana, or when Cardinal Glomp says that the Jews made the Poles into alcoholics, or when the blacks say that Jews are injecting AIDS virus into their people to destroy them. When that happens, Alan, Elon Dershowitz, and Jamin Dershowitz, will jump to their feet and fight the good battle, and defend our honor, and protect us, and help save us.

But for what?

Why fight the battle? Why preserve the Jewish people, if all we know is fighting off the goyim?

He is absolutely right when he says that it is simply not enough!

For 4000 years the mission of the Jewish people has not been to stay the enemy from our doors. It has been to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation!

It doesn't matter so much if it's tefillin, or Torah study, or Shabbat, or prayer, or Hanukkah, or Jewish songs that helps you preserve Jewish culture — or all of the above. But it can't just be for fighting for Soviet Jews or Ethiopian Jews. Though for me, and you, and all of us, I think it must include that too, and you know I feel strongly about that. We also require a positive program that produces the kind of feeling that Judaism is a tradition that can save us during times of peace as well as time of war.

Chutzpah bereft of Jewish knowledge and spirituality is an empty shell. It is arrogance, not courage. It is assertiveness without a clearly delineated position to assert. It is defensiveness, not pride. Unless chutzpah includes nachas, true Jewish satisfaction in being a knowledgeable Jew, it is not really a commodity that will win the hearts and souls of the next generation.

When we fight the Jewish battle, it has to be not only to be accepted in the board rooms, in the country clubs, and in medical and law schools, but it also must be to have the right to maintain Jewish day schools and summer camps, and to have Jewish history and Jewish books taught in our universities, and for synagogues to be supported.

We have a big fight on our hands as Jews, an uphill battle most of the time. We do need a lot of chutzpah to fight the battle, and a lot

of self-esteem and nachas. But the most important battle Jews must fight is not against the enemy outside, but rather against the internal enemy — the enemy of apathy, ignorance, assimilation, intermarriage, and Jewish self-hatred. The real battle is against our own internal spiritual weakness the self-inflicted wounds of letting Judaism sit under a glass in a museum, instead of living it every day of our lives.

As long as Jewish education is a step-child in Jewish life; as long as the synagogue is on the bottom of the ladder of Jewish priorities in the Jewish community; as long as Jewish books lie on the shelves unread and untouched; as long as Jewish prayer is for the rabbi or the cantor and the school children; as long as our charity dollars are lavish for old age homes and Holocaust museums and lectures to churches and Christians — and stingy when it comes to the preservation of the Jewish heritage, culture and religion, then we haven't earned the right to act with chutzpah. We don't really need chutzpah, because there is no need to fight a battle unless you know why you're fighting.

When you contribute to all of those causes, and Jewish learning and synagogues are at the top of the list, not the bottom, then chutzpah can be the most wonderful quality any human being ever had.

A century ago an argument took place between Czar Nicholas of Russia and Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria. The Russian Czar just couldn't understand why his Austrian counterpart was giving freedom and civil rights to Austrian Jews. The Czar claimed that his way of dealing with the Jews was much more befitting this unworthy people — decimate them with pogroms and persecution.

"Dear Czar," said Franz Joseph, "you kill your Jews your way, and I'll kill my Jews my way."

If Jews survive into the 21st century, it will not be because we were able to fight off the anti-Semitism of the Czar, Stalin, Hafez el Assad, or Saddam Hussein,

though I am fully in agreement that they must be fought and defeated. Rather, it will be because we did not let Franz Joseph sit and gloat while the Jewish people destroyed itself from within.

The greatest chutzpah we need today is not fighting anti-Semitism, but preserving Judaism. What we need today is not as much a league for anti-defamation, as a league for philo-Judaism. What we need today is not only outreach, but in-reach.

What we Jews need to survive today is not only warding off the swastika painters and Jew-baiters, but strengthening every institution and structure that promotes a healthy pride in being positively, proudly Jewish. To help us be a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.

Like our cartoon friend, Pogo, I am afraid that I have discovered the real enemy of the Jewish People, and it is us.

It may be hard to swallow, and you may think it's chutzpah of me to say so, but it's the only kind of chutzpah I know of that can keep us going for another 4000 years!

☆



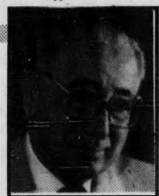
Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins

Yiddish natural for Murphy

By RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

His name is Murphy but he is Jewish.

Dr. Joseph Murphy was formerly president of the City College of New York.



He often addresses Jewish groups, and recently he was the main speaker at a gathering of the Yiddish Cultural Congress in Manhattan. He told the audience how his mother implanted in him a love of Judaism and the Yiddish language. And his mother was on hand, kvelling, we learn from an article in the Forward which doesn't reveal how he came to the name Murphy.

The Congress bestowed awards on four notable Yiddishists: Dr. Joshua Fishman, a professor who has five books and hundreds of monographs to his credit, was hailed on his 65th birthday; Dr. Heshil Klepfisz, now of Israel, a rabbi and an author who was formerly with the Einstein Day School in Panama and who writes learned essays in the Forward; and Dr. Berl Zumbach for his leadership of the Workmen's Circle and the Forward. The fourth citation, in absentia went to Hirsch Smolokov, of Russia, editor of the paper in Vilnius called "Jerusalem of Lita," which is enjoying a large circulation in the liberated "Soviet Disunion."

The puppet show

In Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, Russian Jews were invited to a puppet show. About 200 of them were on hand, when suddenly Chaim Prussman and some of his friends rose up and recited the Shma. They cried out that the show was the work of Christian missionaries who wanted to induce the Jews to abandon their faith. Realizing that they had been lured, most of the audience also rose and joined in the singing of the Shma, and the hall was soon emptied. The anti-shmad effort was the work of an organization called Bais Shifra, which in the Algemeiner

Journal pleads with readers to become volunteers for the organization at 3044 Coney Island Ave., Brooklyn.

At Madrid

Gershon Jacobson, the editor of the Algemeiner Journal, didn't rely on others to report the Madrid conference. He went with two associates, Dr. Manfred Lehman and Rebecca Pergament, to provide personal coverage of the proceedings. Also on hand was the Journal's Israel man, Naftali Kraus. And the paper bristles with the extensive reportage.

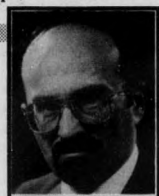
Jacobson, for example, tells us how many reporters were on hand in Madrid: 2062 Spaniards, 736 from the U.S., 315 from England, from France, 235; Italy, 212; Japan, 216; Germany, 204; Israel, 151; the Arab countries 240. Jacobson praises "Bibi, i.e. Benjamin Netanyahu for his astute TV and radio appearances. He lauds Shamir for deciding to leave Madrid to get home for Shabbat. He says Shamir scored by reminding everyone that in keeping with the famous UN resolution 242, Israel did give up over 90% of what it had obtained in 1967 and pointed out that the acquisition of the territories and the Golan Heights resulted from the unprovoked attacks by the Arabs.

The Journal reporters describe the way the Israelis davened in a Madrid synagogue on Shabbas. Eliakim Rubenstein, noted for his wit, read the Biblical portion (the sedra was Chayay Sarah) very fast and explained later that he has a motto: what you can't do well, do rapidly. Meanwhile, another Journal columnist Shlomo Shamir (who is neither kin nor friend of the prime minister) tells of the split among the rightwingers in the Israeli government over the conference. Gculah Cohen, far to the right, was so opposed to the conference that she resigned from her government post. Her colleague, Yovel Nehman, stayed in the government but resigned from the splinter party, Tachiyah to which both he and Cohen belonged.

Shlomo Shamir wonders whether peace will come first between Kraus reports

By RABBI REUVEN P. BULKA

Sidrah Va-Yishlah begins with Yaakov, acting in fear of total extermination, splitting his family into two camps, so that one would



survive if the other were attacked. After taking care of his family, "Yaakov remained alone" (Bereshit 32:25). He wrestled with an angel (representing Esav) till the morning. The angel, seeing that he could not overcome Yaakov, grabbed him by the joint of his thigh, dislocating it and rendering Yaakov lame. Because of this, Jews today refrain from eating the gid ha-nasheh (Bereshit 32:33).

Before trying to understand the prohibition of gid ha-nasheh, it is instructive to analyze the wrestling match between Yaakov and the angel. Did it really happen, or was it a dream? This might appear to be an almost heretical question, yet, in fact, it is a point in dispute between two great luminaries, Rambam and Ramban.

Maimonides, in Moreh Nevukhim 2:42, asserts that Yaakov's wrestling with the angel was dream. This, in fact, is consistent with Maimonides' approach in many other places in Bereshit. Ramban (Bereshit 18:2) disagrees quite vehemently. He insists that it was a real experience as per the presentation in the Torah, albeit with all the transcendental overtones. In fact, both the Ramban and Crescas in his commentary on the Moreh question how Yaakov could have become lame from a dream. Abarbanel on Va-Yishlah comes to Ramban's rescue, saying that oftentimes what happens in a dream can so overwhelm the dreamer that the dream has carryover into real life. To further substantiate Maimonides, it is known that if a person under hypnosis is told that the finger touching him is really a hot iron, he will develop a real blister. Thus, Ramban's approach coincides with real experience. And, more important, it

opens up avenues of interpretation to this and other parts of the Bible, literally creating a darsan's paradise.

Yaakov's wrestling as a dream can now be seen in profound symbolism. That he should see himself wrestling with Esav's angel the day before the dreaded direct confrontation with Esav is readily understandable. Obsessed with this fear during the day, he dreamt of it at night. Until the break of day they wrestled. Yaakov experienced in his prophetic dream the darkness of his children's exile, exile they would survive. The angel, seeing he could not overcome Yaakov, grips the joint of his thigh. Yerekh, the "thigh," is quite an interesting symbol. Yozai yerekho is used in reference to Yaakov's children (Bereshit 46:26). "Thigh" becomes symbolic of one's posterity. Yaakov, in his dream, sees that while the strong will be able to wrestle with Esav, the weak children, the issue of the thigh, will be singled out and attacked with the greater ferocity than the

fathers. It is easy to appreciate that this so startled Yaakov as to render him lame. How prophetic this dream was can be comprehended even today, when the cream of Jewish youth are being inundated by the "freaks," or cults, who seek to lame Judaism by attacking its posterity.

The Torah reacts by prohibiting the gid ha-nasheh. In our everyday habits we are forced to remember Yaakov's dream. Through this prohibition we assert that Judaism has no hindquarters, that our children will be at all times in the forefront of our thoughts and actions. The gid ha-nasheh we scrupulously refrain from eating reminds us that we will never allow our heritage to be lamed by an attack on the rear flank, our posterity. History has proven that the best defense against an attack on the next generation is a strong contemporary era. With a strong, value-imbedded this-generation, the next generation is less vulnerable. The gid ha-nasheh command thus symbolizes our ultimate responsibility.

Fischel

Continued from page 7

priceless Torah scrolls, illustrated books and maps. Rizzoli will also publish *The Jewish World of Yesterday 1860-1938* by Rachel Salamander. The book contains over 400 images of everyday life in European communities (\$65).

The University of California press will publish *Palestine: A Photographic Journey* by George Baramki Azar (\$49.95 hard cover, \$24.95 paper). The author chronicles the intifada and the people of the West Bank in 101 color photos.

Lithuania's apparent extermination of Nazi war criminals makes the *Shadow of Death: The Holocaust in Lithuania* by Harry Gordon a timely reminder of a historic tragedy that the newly created nation would seemingly like to forget. Published by the University Press of Kentucky, the book describes the takeover of Kovno, first by the Red Army and later by the Nazis. The volume focuses on the daily life and bureaucracy in the Slobodka ghetto, (January, \$22).

Other Holocaust related books arriving this fall and

winter include *A Memory Book of Polish Jewry: The Rise and Fall of the Jewish Community of Lubomir* by the Libovner Voline Benevolent Society. The book consists of a collection of records and testimonies of the history of Lubomir which was destroyed during World War II, Shapolsky (December, \$29.95).

Benevolence and Betrayal: Five Italian Jewish Families Under Fascism by Alexander Stille recounts the very different experiences of five families in Mussolini's Italy, Summit Books (October, \$21.50). Scribner's contribution to books about the Holocaust is *In the Sewers of Lvov: A Heroic Story of Survival from the Holocaust* by Robert Marshall. The book details the story of a small group of Jewish refugees in the Lvov Ghetto, who hid from the Nazis in the city's sewer system for 14 months, (September, \$22.95).

From Weimar to Auschwitz: Essays in German History by Hans Mommsen will be published by Princeton University Press in November (\$22.95).

Continued on page 15

Foolish Arab-Jewish children want peace

By JUDY CARR

The teacher in the Jerusalem school was giving the class a talk on the Middle East peace conference.

"Oh yeah," snarled Yehoshua, the tough of the class. "Why leave peace to fools like you? I never thought much of the politicians. Bet I could make peace."

Mr. Arnon, the teacher, was a bit afraid of Yehoshua. "How would you go about it?" he asked him. Yehoshua had actually only meant to disturb.

But he was embarrassed not to take up the challenge.

"Well — I'd, I'd go 'n talk to the Arab kids. Tell them war was silly. Bet they'd listen better than those politicians."

The rest of the class, thoroughly bored with Mr. Arnon, took it up.

"Yes, lets go out now and talk to the Arab kids. Come on — Come on."

Krupnick

Continued from page NAT 1 in accordance with U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, and the removal of all "illegal settlements." El Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation (the name PLO was not mentioned during the entire conference), deplored the "cruelty" of the occupiers and demanded early withdrawal and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine in the territories. Only "land for peace" could be the formula for direct negotiations. Lebanese Foreign Minister Farim Boaz called for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory in accordance with U.N. resolution 425 (requiring all foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon and to cease operations in Lebanon. That there were renewed terror attacks from Lebanon, encouraged by the Syrian "occupiers" was a fact totally ignored by the Lebanese Foreign Minister.

Jordan's Foreign Minister, Kamel Abu Jaber, insisted on the return of all occupied territories "including East Jerusalem." Settlements are illegal and must be removed if there is to be a peace with honor," he declared. Syria's Foreign Minister Farout Shara was far and away the most vehement of the Israel bashers. He questioned the right of Israel's existence since "Jews are a religious element and are citizens in their countries of residence. Otherwise they have dual loyalties," he argued. He proceeded to attack Prime Minister Shamir personally as a "wanted

They streamed out of the school and went towards East Jerusalem and the refugee camps. On the way they yelled at other children in neighboring schools through the classroom windows.

"Come with us. We're going to show the politicians we can make peace."

Crowds of Jewish school children surrounded the schools in East Jerusalem. "Hi," they called, "Who's for peace?"

The Arab children came outside. "We're for peace of course." Both sides agreed that the politicians were fools. They made their way together through the Jerusalem streets holding hands and singing. Kids from the refugee camps joined them.

People in West and East Jerusalem were alarmed. They thought it was a riot and called out the police

and the military. Hordes of soldiers and police arrived wielding batons. The children just waved their hands at them and laughed.

"We've made peace," they called out.

The head of the Jerusalem police force had never seen anything like it in his life. Arabs and Jews together. Was this a demo or an attack? But the kids were smiling and laughing and hugging each other.

"Guess I'd better turn back the forces," he muttered.

The soldiers and police began to argue. "We can't let the Arab and Jewish children loose on the streets. Jerusalem is in a delicate situation. Don't you think we'd better haul them off to jail?"

"They are quite peaceable," said the head of the military force. "But we must take them in. Who knows what it's all about?"

criminal" and urged his fellow delegates to refuse any direct negotiations until Israel withdraws from all the occupied territories. Minister Shara, insisting that the Peace Conference be a continuing international conference instead of direct negotiations with Israel, went so far as to shout into the microphone after the Soviet Foreign Minister had declared, "The Conference is adjourned," his remark, "To be continued."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir exercised great restraint and superb statesmanship in presenting Israel's position. The present peace plan is based on that which Israel had initiated and was prepared to following face to face negotiations with the Palestinians as well as with each of our neighboring states. He declared "The principle is not territories. It is rather the recognition of Israel's right of existence in the Middle East as a nation among other nations." He urged face to face negotiations without any preconditions. He avoided recriminations and name calling, other than to respond forcefully to Syrian Minister Shara.

The image was that of a diminutive "David," battling a host of "Goliaths," and holding his own successfully. Secretary Baker, after some hard negotiating particularly with the Syrian delegation, assisted by pressures upon Syria by Mubarak of Egypt and Faud of Saudi Arabia, had announced that face to face, direct negotiations would begin on Sunday

by teams of negotiators. Two such sessions began between Israel and the Palestinians, and Israel and Jordan. Later another session was held with Lebanon. Syria finally sat down with an Israeli team late that evening.

Talks were procedural, but the "land for peace" theme repeated by President Bush on previous occasions (but completely omitted in the text of the invitation to the Peace Conference), became the prime slogan of the various Arab delegations. The first face to face meetings having been held, the various parties evaluated their positions before proceeding further. The meetings with the Palestinians — and the proposed autonomy programs appear to be acceptable points of departure.

Jordan's position is a starter which is not too significant. Neither are the negotiations with Lebanon a real problem provided it is strong enough to control the Hizbullah terrorists. Israel has no designs on Lebanese territory. The problem is Syria which controls the terror operations and is continuing to arm with Scuds and other sophisticated arms. Its close association with Iran and Lybia is another source of concern.

What should Israel do about resolutions 242 and 338 — land for peace — as future negotiations are proceeding? Israel wants peace — but at what price?

(To be continued)

Samson Krupnick may be reached at 22 Pinsker, Jerusalem 92228, Israel.

The police and soldiers got hold of the kids and handcuffed them and put them in police vans and waved their batons threateningly.

"Fools, crazies, silly old grown-ups," screamed the kids. "We will have peace in spite of you. Put us all in jail. Have us up before the judge. We are going to have peace."

"Shut up," yelled the policemen.

At the lock-up, they put the kids in cells, Arab and Jewish children together. The kids put their arms round each other and laughed and sang.

"We are not leaving it

all to the politicians and grown-ups. We will make peace ourselves. Whatever they do to us, we will make peace."

The next thing — hordes of parents descended on the police station and had a row with the police inspector.

"What were our children doing?" they wanted to know.

"We were making peace," sang out the children from the cells.

The inspector unlocked the cell doors. Among the parents were municipal councilors and Knesset members. "Go home," he said, "and don't do it again."

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Postmark Israel

Continued from page NAT 1

which his Scud missiles sought out from afar earlier this year.

They will not have an easy time establishing government here, for they will be challenged tooth and nail by the Islamic fundamentalists whose influence is spreading daily. These will have the full support, moral, political and military of the forces of darkness which now control Iran. Threats will be uttered; bombs will be hurled; troops will move. No one can outdo the Arabs when it comes to fratricidal hostility.

The battle lines between them will hardly be drawn before a new challenge will emerge from Hafaz al-Assad, whose dream of a Greater Syria has not been satisfied with his de-facto annexation of Lebanon. He cannot countenance a new Arab state along his borders which he does not control. The political and military mix in the cauldron will become hotter. Can Jordan remain silent with all this going on next door, and its own population becoming involved? And will Libya's Gaddafi remain silent?

Whatever "cosmetic" changes that may be made in Israel's border with the new land-locked, unviable state will not be sufficient to insulate our little country from the explosive rivalries. The sparks and flames and fire will erupt over the border, and a regional conflagration of major proportions will ensue.

Is this really what Bush and Baker want? — C.A.

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SOCIAL CALENDAR

By Jean Herschaft

A beautiful blond dynamo named *Dinah Pinczower* made the 46th annual Yehsiva Y. Women's organization (YUWO) benefit at Lincoln Center's State Theatre a bold, bright evening in plaid colors — from the production "Brigadoon" Lerner & Loew's Scottish musical fantasy to the musician dressed in kilts of that land serenading in bagpipes Israeli favorites such as *Hava Na Gila*, at the gala buffet supper following the show — to table centerpieces flower bowls decorated in bright plaid fabric of red, green and gold. And, of course *Dinah Pinczower*, YOWU president, garbed in a tartan plaid long gown — plaid, the fashion accent this fall, was displayed in flair and elegance.

It was a colorful backdrop to Dr. Norman Lamm, YU president, being presented with a \$100,000 check raised by the women and its future Builders auxiliary of young men and women for the refurbishing of Stern College's auditorium and other renovations. The check was in addition to a \$120,000 gift the group had raised earlier this year. It was made by Ms. Pinczower, who single-handedly without benefit of a professional worker, planned, directed and motivated the Future Builders with various activities as well as executing YUWO events. It totaled \$240,000 for YU's Stern College for Women, a landmark already, located at Lexington Avenue & East 34 St.

Dr. Lamm's presentation of the University's Educational Award to YUWO leader Margaret Hirschsprung Berman of Long Beach, N.Y. was politely applauded. However, when the 92-year-young dynamo completed her peppy acceptance talk and reminiscence she received a rousing, stand up ovation by the 750 guests in the Promenade Hall where the festive supper was held.

Clad in a lavender chiffon street-length gown, her silver hair coiffed stylishly, she said: "I was a suffragette in



Dr. Norman Lamm (from left), Abraham J. Hirschsprung, Margaret Hirschsprung-Berman

1919, marching with placard in hand — one of the first true, real feminists..." Then with a wink noted, "I'm a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary, 1921 — a proud Conservative school (there wasn't a Yeshiva U. school for women then... as Stern College is today, Dr. Norman Lamm, would loyally declare later). However, her late husband, Rabbi Mordecai Hirschsprung, was ordained at 1919 and was one of the first alumni to be completely trained in the United States. Mrs. Berman taught in New York City's public schools and later served as a principal of congregational Hebrew schools in Savannah, Ga., Syracuse, N.Y., Des Moines, IA., and Canton and Columbus, OH.

She had noted that she still gets a thrill when a handsome man greets her, noting a specific incident in an elevator going up; is proud that women got the vote she fought for, even prouder how far up women have gone career-wise, as she was in a very small group starting in the '20s. Devotion to YU via its Women's Organization has continued to sustain her in energy and drive, she said. She was accompanied by her son Abraham Hirschsprung, an attorney. Dr. Lamm noted that he had been a Y.U. classmate of her son, Abraham. Thus a real family simcha feeling pervaded.

Adle Kanarek, Maguy Naparstek, Gabrielle Propp and

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Jews By Choice

5-year-old solves the problems

By MARY HOFMANN

A group of us sat around after a recent progressive Shabbat dinner telling parental war stories about raising and educating Jewish



kids in a gentile town. One of the universal concerns seemed to be kindergarten and whether to go public or private.

Our little community, Merced, CA, has the seventh most diverse ethnic population in the United States. While that leads to rich opportunities for cultural exchange, it also must be acknowledged that most of these ethnically diverse folks come from backgrounds either nearly or totally lacking in education. Without exaggeration (I'm a teacher, after all, and I know the kindergarten folks), a startling high proportion of the children starting kindergarten speak no English and have never seen a book or held a pencil. Many parents, fervent supporters of public school, nonetheless tend to look for private alternatives for their own kids for kindergarten while the other kids develop at least some basic academic skills.

Private alternatives here, however, mean sending your five-year-old to a Catholic school, a Pentecostal school, or an Episcopalian school. For Jewish parents, this can be a terrible choice.

It was a choice I had to deal with as well, even thirteen years ago when my Cameron was starting school. He was clearly gifted even then — reading, writing, drawing in perspective and making startlingly perceptive observations on the world. He was also — still is, for that matter — very opinionated. If something didn't challenge him, he tended to turn off. He was eager to leap into school and sharpen his intellectual teeth, and I truly feared that if I put him into public school kindergarten he might just turn off of school entirely.

So I looked at the alter-

natives and talked to the principals. Reverend Murphy at the Episcopal Church School was delightful. A number of Jewish kids had attended St. Luke's and found the school very sensitive and supportive to our differences, eager to celebrate our holidays as well as theirs. All children, however, were required to attend chapel every Friday. I wrestled with it for a while, but finally decided it simply had to be. For one year Cameron would have an Episcopalian school experience.

Overall, it worked out magnificently. Cameron loved St. Luke's, he thrived

One Friday I picked him up from kindergarten and he announced, quite matter-of-factly, "I'm not going to go to chapel anymore, Mom."

"Why not?" I asked, surprised that at the tender age of five he was able to discern much religious significance and wondering how I was going to handle this. His response yanked me quickly out of my reverie.

"Because," he said somewhat indignantly, "there is a dead man hanging on the wall!"

I nearly choked. Trying to hold back the laughter, while mentally acknowledging that he had cut through a lot of the

One Friday I picked him up from kindergarten and he announced, quite matter-of-factly, "I'm not going to go to chapel anymore, Mom." "Why not?" I asked, surprised that at the tender age of five he was able to discern much religious significance and wondering how I was going to handle this. His response yanked me quickly out of my reverie. "Because," he said somewhat indignantly, "there is a dead man hanging on the wall!" I nearly choked trying to hold back the laughter.

academically, and he was able to develop a lasting love of school and education that held him in good stead throughout his public school career. In fact, he's attending a public college even as I write, and he's talking about a career that will keep him there (and us in the poorhouse) for many years to come.

Only one aspect of the parochial kindergarten did not work out as intended, but in standard Cameron style, it worked out to his advantage.

symbolic stuff and gotten right to the gory heart of the matter, I finally said, "And how do you think we should deal with this?"

"I already talked to Rabbi Murphy about it," he stated with characteristic understatement, "and he said I could help out in the office during chapel time."

Poor Rabbi Murphy. He was apparently no match for the logic of a five year old.

Mary Hofmann may be reached at P.O. Box 723, Merced, CA 95341

Israel getting new F-15s

TEL AVIV — The first five of the 20 F-15 jet fighter planes Washington has promised Israel in appreciation of its restraint during the Gulf War have arrived

here. The supersonic aircraft have been selected from active U.S. Air Force stocks and are said to be in top combat condition, plus equipped with state-of-the-art systems.

No facts, just my opinion

By ARLENE G. PECK

The standard answer that I give to people when they tell me how I never check my facts and don't know what I'm talking about is



"Hey, I'm a columnist! I don't have to!" I write my opinions of things. And, those of you who have been reading me know how opinionated I can be. Sometimes to the point of ad nauseum.

So guys, bear with me. I'm about to do it again. I wonder about a lot of things. And, some of them even aggravate me. High on the list is being screened for calls. I don't want to tell some 22-year-old secretary named Bambi, who moonlights as an aerobic instructor, if the party that I'm calling will know what it's about. I usually tell her, "Possibly, if he's clairvoyant." Hell, let him have a little adventure in his soul and pick up the telephone himself.

I say him because I tend to notice that men do that more. What do they do in those conferences anyway? Nor do I want to have an in-depth conversation with my waiter, or even know his name. I especially don't want to be sung, "Happy Birthday" by four busboys and a dishwasher. Speaking of Bambi, what happens when she reaches 45? Do they call her "Boobie?"

Have you ever wondered how the pilot's ability to land the plane has anything to do with whether you have the food tray up or down? Do they still have limits on how old the pilots have to be? The last time that I flew out to the West Coast I felt as though I were flying out with the cast of Cocoon. I wonder. And, speaking of the West Coast, when the earthquake comes, I want to be flying over it in a plane, looking down, saying, "Let's go to Las Vegas instead!"

I also wonder how countries that don't even have an airport can get a nuclear bomb. Maybe we should get a Department of Offense and learn how it really is? Then possibly,

someone like Hafez Assad of Syria wouldn't be allowed to arm his country like a crazed man. Amazing. He's worse than Saddam the world treats his actions in a logical way. I think that logic is the art of going wrong with confidence. That's why I'm glad that I'm lefthanded and a right-brained person. I don't have to be logical either. Sometimes it's easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them.

Living in the South, I hate bumper stickers with a religious theme. Evertime I see a sticker that tells me, "Jesus Saves," I want to jump out and tell the driver, "Yeah, but Moses invests." Actually, whenever a Mercedes pulls up next to me at

Edna, I have visions of someone with trashy friends who lost her alleged virtue in the back of a pick-up truck. She probably lives in a trailer park also. I've always wondered why trailer parks act as magnets during tornadoes. The only difference between the homeless and the trailer people is the trailers have paneling. Southern men named "Bubba" usually have big guts with no butts. Most likely they are married to a woman named Louise who works in a nursing home on commission.

Did you ever notice that when you're out on a date, male or female, who looks like Ed Asner, you will bump into every love encounter in your life that ever

I also wonder how countries that don't even have an airport can get a nuclear bomb. Maybe we should get a Department of Offense and learn how it really is? Then possibly, someone like Hafez Assad of Syria wouldn't be allowed to arm his country like a crazed man. Amazing. He's worse than Saddam. The world treats his actions in a logical way. I think that logic is the art of going wrong with confidence. That's why I'm glad that I'm lefthanded and a right-brained person. I don't have to be logical either.

a red light, I get this tremendous urge to run over and paint Jewish stars on the hood. I got a laugh recently when I heard that the Vatican came down with the ruling that there should be no surrogate mothers. It's a good thing that they didn't make that rule before a certain savior was born. My daughter Dana, and best friend, Shiela the Shopper, both have the attitude that, "Uhhuh, Jesus may save, but I'm gonna spend it!" The only born-again that I want to meet is a born-again interior decorator.

Despite the fact that I'm a third generation Atlantian, I abhor double digit names. And, when I meet a woman named LaVern or

broke your heart? I hate it when you ask your boy friend if he's cheating on you and he answers, "Not really." I'm not saying in the least that I think that men are comparable to dogs. There is just an element of loyalty involved that I'm not sure that men and their genes possess. What's really aggravating is when you've trained one and then they go out and marry someone else.

I just think that women are much more sensitive. Whatever it is, we'll talk it out. Whether they want us to or not. Whatever the problem, men don't want to talk it out. They believe in the old adage that ignorance is bliss. The worst fear that I believe that they

Continued on next page

Buried by large family

By RITA EDLIN

Q: My husband comes from a large family. They're all very close and I'm beginning to feel smothered. Before we were married, we really



talked to each other. We had dinner out alone, and had time to be by ourselves. Now, it seems I have to talk to his mother or sisters to find out what's going on in his life. I'm an only child and I'm not used to spending so much time with relatives. I can't seem to make him understand. What shall I do? — R.B., New Haven

A: It certainly is a big change for you. It sounds as if you're a bit lonely even when you're surrounded by so many loving relatives. Even worse, your husband doesn't seem to understand what you want.

You're wise in not blaming him and in looking for a way to make him understand. Could you get through to him if you took him out to dinner alone? Let him know what you appreciate the family's help with baby-sitting or house repairs or whatever they do that you really appreciate.

Then tell him what you miss most about the days before you were married. He might be glad to take you out alone on a regular basis, if he understood what you wanted and didn't feel you were criticizing his family.

Understanding the problem and stating it clearly is very important. So many couples "go along" with a life-style that is not satisfying, not knowing how they can change it because they're not clear about what is wrong. Then resentment builds and they find themselves arguing about trifles. Don't let your need to be alone with your husband turn into resentment for his family.

If you need help in "getting through" to him, do try the services of a professional marriage counselor. If you want to read about some of the common snags men and women go through, do read "Intimate Partners" by Maggie Scarf, or "You Just Don't

Understand" by Deborah Tannen.

Note H.H.; Williamsburg, Ohio who couldn't find the books I recommended on Widowhood.

My apologies! Two of these books are out of print and might only be found at a local library or University library; Lynns Caine's "The Widow" and Theresa Morse's "Life is for Living"

For other widows who want to read, try these: "To Live Again," "Rebuilding Your Life After You've Become a Widow" by Genevieve Ginsburg, "Suddenly Single: Learning to Start Over Through the Experience of Others" by John Robertson and Betty Utterback, "Suddenly Alone: A Woman's Guide to Widowhood" by Philomene Gates, "Widowed" by Joyce Brothers or "Widows Journey: A Return to the Loving Self" by Xenia Ross.

Do let me hear which of these helps. It will help others!

Rita Edlin may be reached at 2412 Ingleside, I-C, Cincinnati, OH 45206

Silver

Continued from page 12
from Israel about another Shamirite who is so angry at Shamir that he has threatened (as has Sharon) to run against for prime minister, Foreign Minister David Levy. In an Israeli textbook Levy is ridiculed in a story. The story has it that Levy was told by English-speaking guests that his meal would be on the house, whereupon he ascended to the roof of the King David Hotel where the dinner took place.

Astronaut's problem

An apocryphal tale has often been told about a Jewish astronaut who, after alighting from a space trip, faints dead away. When he comes to, he is asked what caused him to collapse: he replies, "from the davvening." Now we read that an unnamed astronaut did indeed ask the Sephardic chief rabbi how often he must davven on a space journey. The answer: every 24 hours by your watch. (Algemeiner Journal)

Rabbi Sam Silver may be reached at Temple Sinai, 2475 W. Atlantic Ave.,

Gertel

comes an insulting and treacherous place to Gold, who is made to feel ignorant there and who is deceived by the librarian who withholds information from him. Yet Gold manages to stumble on the truth, anyway and he thus finds his way to Israeli agents who exploit and blackmail him, and then call him a "hoodlum" when he tries to respond physically to their far more vicious mental abuse of him and cynical exploitation of his Jewish yearning.

To be fair, I must say that Mamet is very effective at showing how some Jews can discourage other Jews from learning more about Judaism. But his emphasis on this to the point that it characterizes every Jew in the film but Gold, becomes the major undoing of this film, which loses its Jewish self-respect, and thus its integrity and perspective, by offering only two kinds of Jews — "empty" Jews like Gold, and sinister Jews like everyone else.

The proof of Mamet's preoccupation with his own conniving Jews is that he never gets around to solving the murder of the old Jewish woman, even in a police drama! It is more than enough for him to raise the specters of gun-running and Nazis to keep his Jews caught in a vicious circle of fear and bitter plotting.

It would have been bad enough if Mamet had just made his "committed" and "knowledgeable" Jews sinister and conniving. But he goes much further in *Homicide*. He does two additional things that are not only disturbing, but downright unforgivable. He suggests that the more "Jewish" one becomes, the less loyal one

can be to non-Jewish friends and to careers such as police work. And he suggests that the more devoted one is to Jewish causes such as the State of Israel, the more one must exploit other groups.

The issue of "dual loyalty" is certainly raised here once the Israeli agents (wrongly) ask Gold to turn over police material to them. Mantegna is marvelous at depicting the Jewish cop placed in such a difficult bind. On the basis of his performance and others I've seen, I, for one, have no problem with Jews being portrayed by Italians or others. My own theory is that Jews have utterly failed to depict Jews meaningfully or sympathetically on the small screen or the big — whether Woody Allen, Peter Sellers, Richard Dreyfuss, Dustin Hoffman, etc., etc. Mantegna does so more affectingly and sincerely.

My other theory is that a non-Jewish producer/director and writer would have felt some intellectual curiosity and some sense of responsibility to represent what Judaism says about dual loyalty, such as the classical Jewish teaching since ancient times that except under the most extreme possible circumstances, *dina d'malchuta dina*, one is obligated to follow and honor the laws of the state. In Judaism, loyalty to God means integrity and keeping one's word and a concern for the well-being and peace of one's society.

Anyone watching this film leaves with the impression that heightened Jewish identity means less concern for one's Gentile friends and less loyalty to one's government.

But worse yet, the im-

pression left by this film is that loyalty to Judaism must at some point demand the betrayal of the rights of others. Gold — and the audience — are sickened by a display of hate literature in the back room of a store, one poster of which reads: "Crime is caused by the ghetto and the ghetto is caused by the Jews." Yet at the end of the film, ostensibly because of the machinations of the Israeli secret agents, two black children are charged with the death of the old Jewish woman. As I left the city theater where I saw the film, I made a point of listening to the reactions. Everyone was trying to figure the film out. Some of the African American patrons rightfully noted that in the end the blacks were exploited by whatever the rest of the film represents.

Maybe the film is effective at raising issues of Jewish identity. (One could say the same of *Mein Kampf* and *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, too.) Maybe the film is a warning about the emptiness and dangers of "defense organization Judaism" when taken to the extreme. Maybe it is a condemnation of Gold-like Jews whose only Jewish identity is an anticipation of, or reaction to, the attitudes of non-Jews.

But I believe most fervently and with much sorrow that Mamet and the producers lost all rights to the benefit of a doubt. They knew exactly which strings to pull and so they should have been able to avoid any mixed signals. A promising film became downright perverse because its makers purposely highlighted the ambivalences and ambiguities of Jewish identity, perhaps because they had a

"Jewish" axe to grind which no Gentile would have. They created a film which will leave thousands of Jews and Gentiles with the impression that to yearn for Jewish identity is to open oneself to alienation, ex-

Peck

Continued from prev. page
might ever have to contend with is touching a tampan. It's a complex situation. A man will subscribe to Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report and then he'll go out and look for an empty-headed bimbo.

Women, on the other hand, realize that money isn't everything. It can buy a pedigree dog for instance, but only love can make it wag its tail. There is, I suppose a parallel there somewhere. Women seem to have more love/hate relationships. You know the kind. Where both loved him and hated her. The worst are cheap men. I knew one once that had a pay phone in his car.

Also, have you ever wondered why the phone company calls you back to tell you that there was overtime? Think about it. What do you do when the pay phone rings and the operator is calling to tell you that you owe extra money? And, there's nobody around the booth that you're in? Uh huh, sure you do.

I wonder why they don't

plotation, betrayal, ambiguity and ambivalence and ultimately to be without a home, without a God and without even the privilege of participation in one's society.

outlaw the National Rifle Association? I find it difficult to believe that an entire organization could have Down's syndrome. I may not approve of Bambi, the person, but I think the deer is precious. And, any individual that would want to go out and shoot a living creature like that has got to be a pretty sick person. There are certain people who shouldn't be allowed guns... like killers.

I used to question when, as a kid, my mother, Queen Mollie, would look at me and say, "If I had your body and my brains... there'd be no stopping me." Now, that I know what she meant... I think it's too late. I just looked down the other day though and saw that my hands had turned into my mother's... and wondered, when did that happen?

And finally, I wonder how I ended up such a lucky lady that I don't have to stick to the facts... just my opinion.

Arlene Peck may be reached at 2870 Phar Court South, #107, Atlanta, GA 30305

Carr

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The kids marched off singing. "When we are grown-up, we will make peace ourselves. We will do

it ourselves. World, just you wait."

Judy Carr may be reached at POB 6431, Tel Aviv, mx 61 063 Israel

Social calendar

Continued from page 14

Sylvia Tau were benefit chairmen of the benefit. Heshy Feldman, Laura Siegel and Mark and Patricia Kaufman were the chairmen of the Future Builders. Mindy Lamm (Mrs. Norman Lamm) a key worker here.

My husband Jack and I were table mates with the close kin of author Herman Wouk, whose late mother was an avid YUWO supporter, Victor Wouk, there on his 50th wedding anniversary with wife Joy, told us. Also, present his sister, Irene Wouk. For three years in a row we have been dinner mates at this annual event with the Wouk family. Victor, an engineer, said that his brother Herman is at work at another novel at his home, in Palm Springs, CA. Another tablemate from Spain was Stern College sophomore, Deborah Benasouli, whose dad is Rabbi Yechiel Benasouli of Madrid.

Among other guests: Gitty Stern and family, whose late husband founded Stern College for Women and Hartz Mountain Food Corporation; Mrs. Rose Klayman; Rose Liberman; Berly Trau; Bette Bialkin; Dr. and Mrs. Robert Richter and a number of Stern College students.

MYSTERY PERSON

Do you know who's who?

The Mystery Person is a journalist.
The Mystery Person is one of the strongest supporters of Israel.
The Mystery Person was born in Canada.

The winner of the Post and Opinion Mystery Person will receive a two-month extension of their subscription. Responses must be made by mail. All Mystery Persons are limited to American Jews. Once included in the contest, that same individual will not be a Mystery Person again.

LETTERS

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS — *The Post and Opinion encourages readers to send letters. All letters to the editor should be addressed to The Jewish Post and Opinion, P.O. Box 449097, Indianapolis, IN 46202. All letters should be typewritten and may be edited for publication. Unsigned letters will not be considered, but signatures may be withheld upon request.*

Magic Johnson: a Jewish view

Dear Editor,

The weekend after the tragic retirement of Magic Johnson took place, I asked the older students in our Religious School to write about their reaction when they heard the news of Magic's disease and also what they learned from this terrible event. One of our sixth graders wrote the following: "I felt sad because out of all the people in the world it had to happen to him. Magic Johnson was a hero to a lot of people. It was weird because it didn't look like it really bothered him but you could see it in his eyes that he felt sad for himself. Millions of people were saddened about him getting the HIV virus. Hundreds of people were crying and the rest were crying in their hearts. Everybody who knew him were moved. Now people will be playing it safe because Magic Johnson has told them that if you don't play it safe you can get it too."

I wish I had the space to give you additional examples of the reactions of our children to the Magic Johnson story. They were filled with sadness and caring and much insight well beyond their years. When I met with the children at the Religious School assembly I tried to give them a Jewish perspective on this sad episode. First, I told them that according to our tradition no one is perfect except God. Thus any hero or heroine we have is always subject to imperfection and errors. Remember the words that we read in our High Holy Day prayers: "O Lord: Are not all the conquerors as nothing before You, and those of renown as though they had not been; the learned as if they had no knowledge, and the wise as if without understanding?"

I told the children, that even Moses, the greatest Jew who ever lived, was not perfect. He sinned, he lost his temper many times and was even punished by God by not being allowed to enter the Promised Land. No, the heroes of Judaism are all mortal and our Bible goes to great pains to point out their imperfections.

The second thing I pointed out to our students was that Magic Johnson had a choice whether or not to practice safe sex and he chose not to. He was not a

victim. He could not blame anyone else. He had to accept the responsibility for his condition and not point the finger at God or another human being. And this is one of the major tenets of Judaism: free choice to do good or evil, to be a blessing or a curse. Again, remember what we read on Yom Kippur: "I have set before you life or death, blessing or curse; choose life, therefore, that you and your descendants may live..."

And finally, I agreed with Magic Johnson that now that he was afflicted with the HIV virus he could become a spokesman for safe sex and AIDS awareness and therefore turn what might have been a devastating and destroying event in his life into something positive and constructive not only for himself but also for the entire world. And there is something very Jewish about this attitude. It is based on the Hebrew phrase: "Gam zoo L'tovah" — Also this is for the best."

Jews throughout the centuries have taken catastrophic events, such as the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, and made out of them lessons and examples on how to lead a moral and ethical life. Jews have always looked for the beneficial and helpful facets of all events that have befallen us — especially and including the terrible ones. And this what Magic Johnson has done with his discovery that he has the HIV virus.

I end by quoting another of our Religious School students who concluded her remarks thusly: "At first I did not believe a superstar like Magic could get HIV. But I am proud Magic has taken control of his life to help prevent AIDS from killing others. He has become the spokesman for safe sex. I salute you Magic Johnson." *Rabbi Lawrence J. Goldmark 15721 Rosecrans Ave. La Mirada, CA 90638*

Yuter wrong, Reform discrimination victim

Dear editor,

I am a Post and Opinion reader for many years. I disagree with the Oct. 23 letter regarding "Reform Is Told About Religious Authenticity."

I belong to a Conservative group in my present community. However, before moving here I was associated with a Reform congregation

in Northern New Jersey.

I believe Rabbi Michael Boyden stated his opinions correctly. Reform Jews are second class citizens in Israel.

I wish Israel had a more pluralist attitude toward religion. Not to be recognized is a shame, especially when Reform contributes generously to Israel each year.

Regarding homosexuals, the only thinking is to accept it uncritically. Since they have no choice; we must maintain an open posture towards their behavior and lifestyle.

I think Rabbi Alan J. Yuter's opinion is much too severe and caustic.

*Barbara J. Weiss
43 W. 6th Ave.
Coatesville, PA 19320*

Editor is blamed for cantor story

Dear editor,

As editor of your paper, you failed miserably at your job. You printed an article in The Jewish Post & Opinion (issue of Oct. 2) that denigrates and mocks the sacred calling of the Cantorate.

I do not know nor do I wish to know who the writer of this disgusting diatribe is and whether Alvin S. Roth is or is not a rabbi. You and you alone are to blame for including it in your paper. This article, whether a work of fiction or fact, was written by a person whose heart is full of hatred, who should not have been given even a one-inch space in your paper, much less a full two and a half page center spread.

For shame! For shame! You owe all cantors who dedicate their lives to their profession a full apology and a promise never to print such garbage again. I demand nothing less.

*Cantor Harold Klein
Toronto*

Who is Rabbi Alvin Roth?

Dear editor,

Who is Alvin Roth and why did he write a non-fiction piece demeaning to rabbis, cantors, synagogues and serious Jews (The Cantor and the Rabbi, P&O, 10/2/91)?

More importantly, what possessed you to publish such drivel?

*Cantor Moshe Weiss
91 Nassau Avenue
Atlantic Beach, NY 11509*

Rabbi explains Teaching Torah

Dear editor,

I was more than a little surprised to see my essay Standing Naked, Breaking Heads, reprinted in The Post and Opinion. I am pleased that you found it worth printing, but dismayed that I had no foreknowledge of your doing so. Had I known I would have alerted you to a mistake that appeared in the original, and which caused much misunderstanding among readers. Towards the end of the essay it says "My job is not to teach Torah." What it should have said is "My job is not to teach a literalist Torah."

Of course rabbis teach Torah — teaching Torah is the core of what I do. Teaching Torah is what gives me the greatest joy. But the Torah I teach is neither the dry Torah of the academic, nor the literalist Torah of the Orthodox. Neither of these can satisfy the spiritual hunger of my liberal Jewish congregants. The Torah they crave, the Torah that will speak to them and engage them in dialogue is a Torah that reveals the nature of reality and the Source out of which it comes.

My point is that we must not restrict Torah to the official interpretations of any one group. Instead, the contemporary rabbi must master and continue the centuries old practice of making midrash. Indeed, making midrash and breaking heads are both part of the same process of pointing the Way that should be at the heart of the new rabbinate. I hope that readers who were upset or misled by this sentence will reconsider my argument in light of this clarification. *Rabbi Rami M. Shapiro
Temple Beth Or
PO Box 160081
Miami, FL 33116*

Reader also came from Begin village

Dear Editor,

In the obituary of Oct. 23, I was saddened to read about the death of a cousin, Arthur Melnick. You stated that he grew up in the same village as Menachem Begin, in Russia. I also grew up with Mr. Begin, but the village was the city of Brestlitovsk. It was a large city

with a Jewish population in the tens of thousands.

Our rabbi, Chaim Soloveitchik, was world famous. Our shul was the biggest and most beautiful in Czarist Russia. The shul was even dedicated by the Czar.

The teenagers, including myself, were organized in a militant Zionist organization. We called ourselves the Trumpeldors, after the hero of Tail Chai, who was killed when the Arabs attacked the kibbutz.

On my two trips to Israel I made sure to visit Tail Chai, which is now a museum. You can see the farm implements that they used in those days. There is a big statue of Trumpeldor in the front of the museum.

I urge the readers of The Post and Opinion to visit Tail Chai. When we were there, there were very few tourists.

If there are any survivors from Brestlitovsk, I would enjoy hearing from them.

*Max Minoff
404 Dahill Rd
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218*

Rabbi explains 'Teaching Torah'

Dear Editor,

In the October 30 issue of The Post and Opinion, Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum writes, in his response to the Messianic missionaries who seek his soul, that he cannot accept the Christian messiah since the last 2,000 years have not been particularly peaceful. Rabbi Mandelbaum adds that "Judaism teaches, primarily, about 'the days of the Messiah,' the messianic era in time, rather than as a person." This statement reflects liberal Jewish theology, not the Judaism of Torah tradition.

In point of fact, the Judaism of Tradition affirms a belief in the Messiah as person, who is the anointed king of Israel. His reign ushers in the days of Messianic age.

Mandelbaum confuses what he would like Judaism to maintain, and what Judaism, by which he means the Judaism of the Tradition, actually says. The phrase "messianic era" puts the word "messianic" as an adjective, modifying the word "era," a noun. The Hebrew idiom, *yemot ha-mashiach* is literally rendered "days of the Messiah," which Mandelbaum defines as Messianic era. While his

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How Dance Smartly's owner got into racing of horses

By HARLAN ABBEY

It's a rare person who can reach the pinnacle of a sport. But Ernie Samuel of Toronto has done it twice, in two different — but faintly related — fields of endeavor.

Samuel is best-known to North American and worldwide horse racing fans as the owner of Dance Smartly, who won the Breeders Cup Distaff \$2-million race for fillies and mares at Louisville's historic Churchill Downs on Nov. 2.

He was on nation-wide TV from the winner's circle, modestly accepting congratulations for his fabulous 3-year-old filly's accomplishments, which capped an unbeaten racing season and the winning of Canada's Triple Crown of 3-year-old races, beating the supposedly stronger sex in the bargain, and winning a \$1-million bonus.

But back in 1968 Samuel was accepting congratulations for another great sporting achievement, an Olympic Gold Medal in the team show jumping at the Mexico City Olympic Games, with the star performer being a horse Samuel owned, Canadian Club, who was ridden by Jim Day, who now trains Sam-Son Farm's string of race horses.

The stable is named for Samuel and Son Steel, the name of the steel processing firm started by his late father and now a multi-national corporation.

Noted for identifying as a Jew but trying to keep a very low profile (Samuel declined to be interviewed recently by the Canadian Jewish News), Samuel told this reporter — following Dance Smartly's win in the second Canadian Triple crown race, the Prince of Wales Stakes at the Fort Erie track, across the border from Buffalo, NY — "To me, the Olympic Games is the ultimate.

"The Olympics is your country, it's a national thing... in a class by itself. Besides, Canada was a long shot to win" in the

Olympics, while Dance Smartly was favored to win her race, and is a possible selection as North America's "Horse of the Year."

"Winning a big race is more of a personal thing, compared to a national thing like the Olympics," added Samuel.

Samuel's entry into horse-ownership came in a round-about way, according to Jim Day, who is part of the Dance Smartly winner's circle team along with American jockey Pat Day, who is no relation.

Day explained:

"Canadian Club was owned by a stock broker when I started riding him around 1965 or '66. He sold a half-interest in him to Ernie, as an investment. He knew nothing about horses. I was to ride the horse into the Pan American Games and then they were going to sell him at a profit.

"Actually, when I rode him to win the gold medal, he'd already been sold... although I didn't know it. But Ernie was there as a spectator and when everyone began congratulating him, he decided to buy out his partner and keep the horse for Canada."

Samuel became more involved in show horses when his children, Kim, Mark and Tammy (Balaz) began riding. He and Day started Sam-Son with the idea of breeding show jumpers.

"Then," Day recalled, "we found ourselves with a lot of horses too young to ride that no one wanted to buy. Since they were thoroughbreds, we decided to try them on the track. But since they were bred to be jumpers, they couldn't run very fast. So then we decided to breed race horses instead."

And as for comparing wins on the race track to show ring wins by his children, Samuel said "The children have won so many championships it's sort of routine. As long as none of them gets hurt, that's all I care about."

Mirabile dictu, Agency in black

JERUSALEM — The red ink on the budgets of the Jewish Agency for the past few years should disappear as the new budget of \$631 million just approved should cover all outlays for the year ahead. That amount for 1992 operations has been promised by the UJA and Keren Hayesod, its partner in countries outside the U.S.

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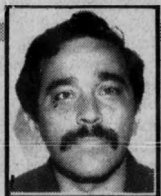
Massive staff cutbacks, with 1,500 dismissals of the work force over the past several years, plus reorganization of departments, should now put the Agency in the black, barring any unexpected massive immigration. The new budget provides for the absorption of 170,000 immigrants in 1992.

SPORTS SCENE

Steelers activate 4th NFL Jew

By SHEL WALLMAN

Ariel Solomon, OT, has been activated from the practice squad by the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Steelers 10th round draft selection,



the U. of Colorado grad from Boulder, CO, narrowly missed making the big club in the preseason.

Ariel becomes the fourth Jew currently active in the NFL, joining Brent Novoselsky, back-up TE for Minnesota, Harris Barton, veteran standout at OT for the San Francisco 49ers, and Alan Veingrad, back-up OT for the Dallas Cowboys.

Dartmouth's Jay Fiedler was named Ivy League Rookie of the Week (2nd consecutive week) and ECAC Division I-AA Rookie of the Week. Fiedler, a soph QB from Oceanside, L.I., completed 18/23 passes for 204 yards, 1 TD and no interceptions in a 31-25 win over Cornell. This past week-end, Jay was 18/34 with 4 TD's and no interceptions as Dartmouth tied Harvard in Cambridge 31-31. Jerry Golbert, WR, had 8 receptions for 81 yards and 1 TD for Dartmouth.

Eric Abrams, senior PK'er for La Jolla (CA.) Country Day, has been smothered with letters and phone calls from recruiters representing the best schools in Div. I-A football. Is he for real? Keep reading.

"In 18 years of watching high school athletes on a daily basis, I've never seen a kid who can kick as far and as consistent as Eric," said Mark Steiner, of Superprep Magazine. "He might be the best kicker of this decade. The power he has comes from his technique — it's flawless. The trajectory of his ball is so high. In the first hour and half that I watched him, he never shanked on kick... Barring injury, he'll be a first-round draft choice in the NFL." Easy, Mark, not too many kickers go on the first round.

"He's the best I've ever seen for his age," said John Carney of the San Diego Chargers who has kicked with Eric in the off-season.

"He's already worked the bugs out of his form. He's as fundamentally sound as many college kickers at the end of their college careers."

After a 16-year absence, South Africa is expected to send a 400-member delegation (third largest behind the USA & Israel to the 1993 World Maccabiah Games in Israel. The Maccabi World Union made the move after the International Olympic Committee lifted its ban on South Africa for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. Some South African athletes have participated in recent Maccabiahs on an unaffiliated basis.

The end of the Cold War has opened the door for East European involvement in the Maccabiah Games. At the 1989 Games, Lithuania and Hungary sent teams with Lithuania marching under the Soviet banner. For the 1993 Games, teams from the Soviet Union (250 athletes drawn in part from the USSR's 35 registered Maccabi clubs), Poland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria are also expected.

Not title bound

If Jewish kids are hesitant to step into the ring, it doesn't mean that their fathers are showing any reluctance. We've brought Dr. Harold "Hackie" Reitman, 41, a physician from Florida who is boxing professionally as a heavyweight, to your attention, and now we can introduce psychologist Brian Raditz, 37, of

Philadelphia, PA. He has a thriving private practice, but makes room in his hectic schedule for regular training sessions at a Kensington gym. Football was Raditz's sport in high school and college, but he did have a few amateur bouts as a youth (under an assumed name, of course) and then caught the bug again after he began treating a former pro fighter. As reported in the Philadelphia Jewish Times, Raditz's short boxing career may be over. After winning his two pro bouts by TKO and having sacrificed irreplaceable time with his wife and three children, Raditz has little left to prove. In fact, he'll only fight again if a proposed match with actor Mickey Rourke comes to fruition.

Heather Willens, a junior at Stanford U. from Los Angeles, CA., finished #2 at the NCAA All-American Championships at Pacific Palisades, CA., losing 6-4, 6-3 in the finals to Paloma Collantes of Ole Miss.

Margie Goldstein of Miami, FL, has won the 1991 American Grandprix Association's Rider of the Year award at the National Horse Show in East Rutherford, N.J. Goldstein was also the 1989 winner, but an injury ended her hopes to defend the title in 1990.

Help write the Sports Scene. Send items of interest Shel Wallman at 70 West 95 Street, #27G, New York, N.Y. 10025.

Rabbi explains 'Teaching Torah'

Continued from page 17
rendering may reflect Mandelbaum's personal theology, I find little basis for that rendering in the classical Jewish tradition. While the Talmud records a view that the Messiah came in the days of king Hazekiah, this opinion was rejected by the larger Tradition. Classical, Traditional, Orthodox Judaism maintains a belief in a personal Messiah.

Ironically, Mandelbaum often speaks of his closeness to Lubavitch. It is Lubavitch that raises Messiah con-

sciousness among Jews, and the Lubavitch, like all other traditional Jews, speak about a person no less than an age. Maimonides writes that the Messiah/person initiates the Messianic age. I would be interested in locating those sources of "Judaism" which emphasize that Messianic era in history over and above the actual person who will restore the ancient glory of Israel, speedily and in our time. Rabbi Alan J. Yuter Congregation Israel Springfield, N.J.

Brandeis gains institute

An Institute for the study of Zionism has been established at Brandeis University by the Jacob and Libby Goodman Institute for the

Study of Zionism of New York. The late Jacob Goodman and his wife made possible the acquisition of the ZOA House in New York.